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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

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VALIANT SHIELD
Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Dewey* fires a Standard Missile 2 as part of Valiant Shield 2014. Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN DAVID FLEWELLYN

'GIAA blocking SMA plan for Guam-Saipan flights'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For about two years now, Star Marianas Airlines has been trying to gain access to the commuter terminal of the Guam International Airport Authority so it could finally provide flights between Guam and the CNMI. The airport agency, however, has hamstrung this effort, says Star Marianas, by putting up one roadblock after another.

A sheaf of documents that Star Marianas made available yesterday details this tussle with GIAA that, according to the airline, violates their rights as holders of an air carrier certificate as well as some Federal Aviation Administration policies.

One issue brought up repeatedly in letters to GIAA is United Airlines' use of the airport's commuter terminal as a human resource department, which until today has been barred from Star Marianas' use. United Airlines' affiliate, Cape Air, provides the sole flight service between Guam and the CNMI.

Robert Christian, Star Marianas chairman and director of flight operations, pointed out that this is a violation of FAA Grant Assurance 29, which essentially prohibits an airport from making changes to FAA-approved airport layout plan.

Using the criteria of FAA order 5190.6B, which according to Christian differentiates between aeronautical and non-aeronautical property, GIAA is violating FAA policy.

"Aeronautical property has to be used for aeronautical purposes. It's not optional," Christian said

Letters to GIAA call this issue "obviously problematic" as an HR department does not require airside access and the use of the terminal in

See GIAA on Page 4

NMC mulls tuition, fee hikes

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is considering a 35-percent hike in tuition, along with a 57-percent increase in fees and a 100-percent hike in international fees.

While discussed in a Board of Regents meeting yesterday, the proposed increase was not acted on.

According to the college, tuition has not been raised in eight years, with the last one happening in 2006 when it was raised by 46 percent.

See NMC on Page 4

7.1 quake jolts CNMI, Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Strong temblor did not generate destructive tsunami

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake that occurred near Guam yesterday afternoon was strongly felt in the CNMI. The temblor, however, did not generate a destructive tsunami.

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman told *Saipan Tribune* yes-

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A woman whose house got in the path of a wildfire loses almost everything.
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Leonardo DiCaprio has a new role—as a U.N. Messenger of Peace.
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IT&E
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Local

Contractor for CUC pipeline project files contract dispute

»Smithbridge Guam: CUC'stermination of contract unwarranted, illegal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Smithbridge Guam Inc., whose contract to build the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s oil pipeline was recently terminated, has filed a contract dispute with the utility agency.

Smithbridge, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, submitted yesterday its supplemental dispute to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

According to Hanson, CUC's termination of the contract "was unwarranted and is a breach of contract."

Hanson said Smithbridge believes all of the deficiencies cited by CUC in its notice of default and termination issued on Aug. 29, are "either erroneous, speculative, irrelevant and/or immaterial."

Hanson listed 18 issues that are disputed or possibly disputed.

He, however, stated that Smithbridge remains "ready, willing and able to proceed with the project."

He said Smithbridge will continue to hold and secure all the materials it procured for the project at its facility on Saipan.

"[Smithbridge] will, as soon as possible, deconstruct and relocate the welded 8-inch pipe currently roadside in Lower Base to CUC's Power Pole and Pipe Storage Area at no additional cost to CUC," Hanson said.

He said Smithbridge is now preparing a claim for all of the costs the company is due under the contract and all additional costs it is entitled to due to CUC's actions, including CUC's "illegal termination of the contract."

Last month, CUC counsel James Sirok informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that CUC has directed Smithbridge to stop work at the site for allegedly not addressing CUC's and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's concerns.

At that time, Sirok said the utility agency was in the process of notifying Smithbridge of its default in the terms of its contract, and issuing a notice of termination of the company's contract.

Sirok said that EPA wrote CUC on Aug. 1, 2014, outlining several concerns it has with Smithbridge personnel and management of the CUC pipeline project.

Sirok said because of these concerns, and in an attempt to mitigate the potential of personnel and management problems arising as the project moved forward, EPA directed CUC that it had 10 days to replace any inadequate and ineffective personnel on the project with competent, qualified, and experienced pipeline supervision, construction and welding personnel.

By Aug. 14, 2014, the directives and concerns of both CUC and EPA had not been addressed, he said.

Sirok said that during CUC's discussion with Graeme Ridley of Smithbridge on Aug. 15, it became clear that the company was not prepared to address the directives and concerns.

In Smithbridge's supplemental dispute, among the issues that Hanson raised is that the company's welders and "super-

See CONTRACTOR on Page 4

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SEPTEMBER 14 – 20, 2014

NHTSA www.nhtsa.gov

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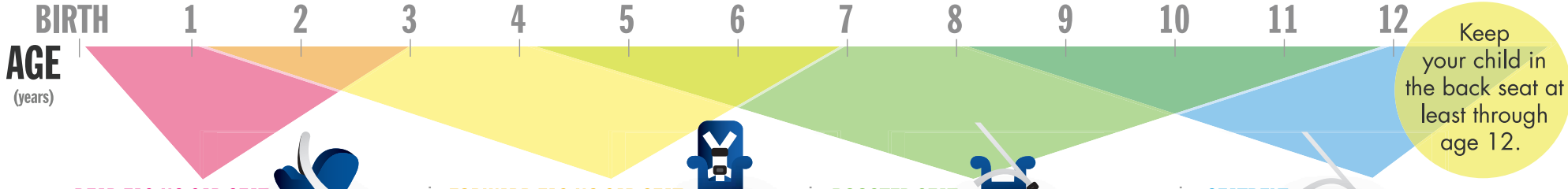
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



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Inos extends emergency declaration for CUC anew

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Due to ongoing financial and technical worker crises at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended again on Tuesday the declaration of a state of significant emergency at the utilities agency.

This comes just as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to appoint a receiver for some CUC projects due to the latter's alleged continued violation of court orders and deadlines and the CNMI government's continued failure to fund CUC.

The CNMI utilities agency has been under a state of emergency for about the nine years now. Like previous extensions, Inos—and his predecessor Benigno R. Fitial—extended the emergency declaration for the islands' lone electricity supplier "due to the imminent threat of the inability of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to provide critical power generation, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI and considering the harm such conditions would pose to the community, environment, and critical infrastructure of the [NMI]."

The declaration allows the government to "suspend all statutory or regulatory provisions as required; and utilize all available resources of the Commonwealth government and its political subdivisions as reasonably necessary to respond to the emergency."

Inos' emergency declaration for CUC states that, without electricity, "the CNMI's health and safety would immediately be at risk, …the public schools and the Northern Marianas College would close. Other education institutions would close as their backup fuel supplies for emergency generation are exhausted; and water and sewage treatment would soon end."

The local economy will invariably suffer without the state of emergency declaration since "most economic activity would come to a halt, much refrigeration and air conditioning would end, and the airports and ports would be forced to rely on emergency generation on the limited, expensive oil supply for it," said Inos.

Financial morass

CUC is owed more than $20 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., not including millions of dollars more by residential customers.

Inos tacitly admitted that the financial crisis at CUC is the government's own doing as "although the Commonwealth economy has recently improved, the improvement is only marginal and the economy and the government's finances are still fragile. The government strains to meet its obligations."

Inos

To exacerbate things, the governor said "CUC often only has days' worth of purchased fuel to power its systems because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier. CUC has no credit or other means to buy fuel other than the revenue its collects from its customers."

Dearth of technical workers

Inos said the CNMI doesn't have enough U.S. citizens or U.S. resident technical specialists at CUC to perform the power generation work, particularly specialists with experience in the type of engines that CUC uses.

"U.S. citizens with the necessary skills are not readily available in the CNMI and it is costly to recruit from the United States. CUC believes that the vast majority of skills sets, considering its cash restrictions, must come from non-U.S. personnel."

CUC has tried to hire diesel mechanics in the CNMI, but it has been unsuccessful in finding enough candidates, he said.

Inos said CUC's renewal of contracts and hiring of foreign expert workers is necessary to sustain the integrity of CUC's systems. He urged the Legislature to amend "local law to allow CUC to continue employing the services of foreign workers for such technical positions difficult to fill and provide for a reasonable transition period."

House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications chair Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the extension of the emergency declaration has been a given the past nine years because CUC is struggling financially and has manpower issues because of the lack of an available U.S. citizen worker pool to man its power plants.

He said the government should continue to have control of CUC despite an April directive that restored the full power of the CUC board of directors.

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Woman who stole $2K gets suspended sentence

A 53-year-old woman who stole $2,020 that was intended as payment for a permanent registration application has pleaded guilty to theft by deception and got a suspended sentence as part of a plea deal with the government.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Elizabeth Berganio on Tuesday to two years in prison, all suspended, and placed her on probation for five years.

Berganio was ordered to pay $2,020 in restitution to the victim, Yingshun Sakisat, $5,000 in fine that shall be reduced to $2,500 if it is paid by Oct. 1, 2015, and $300 in court costs and probation fees.

Berganio was required to write a letter of apology and have it published in local newspapers.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received was dismissed.

Assistant attorney general Clayton Graef prosecuted the case. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Berganio.

According to police, their investigation began on Nov. 3, 2011, when Zacarias Sakisat went to the Department of Public Safety to file a complaint against Berganio.

According to the complaint, Zacarias Sakisat's wife, Yingshun, paid $300 to Berganio in May 2010 for the processing fee for her permanent registration application.

In June 2010, the Sakisat couple brought Berganio to the Chalan Kanoa Post Office to purchase money order worth $1,700 as payment for Yingshun Sakisat's permanent registration application.

Berganio presented Yingshun Sakisat with a filled-out money order form and asked for another $20 as payment for sending the money order.

Berganio told Yingshun Sakisat to wait for two to three weeks to receive through mail the documents regarding her permanent registration application.

The documents never came.

Yingshun Sakisat learned from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in November 2010 that its Hawaii Office never received any application for the permanent registration that she applied for.

Police learned that copies of the receipts of the money order obtained from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security indicated that none of the transactions was for the processing of Yingshun Sakisat's application. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Jurors in Roberto case to continue deliberations on Monday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With still no verdict yesterday, the 12 jurors in the case against Raymond B. Roberto will resume their deliberations on Monday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman recessed the jurors at 4:47pm yesterday and ordered them to rreturn on Monday at 8am to resume their deliberations.

Wiseman was assigned to the case yesterday as U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who presided over the trial, is off-island, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Before excusing the jurors, Wiseman gave instructions to the jurors and read them a portion of the final jury instructions.

At 2:24pm yesterday, the jurors, through their foreperson, sent a note to the judge requesting a dictionary, whiteboard, and markers. The jurors also requested a refill of their water dispenser.

Wiseman later wrote back on the note that consulting with dictionaries is not permitted. The judge asked the jurors to look at a portion of the final jury instructions.

After receiving the jury's note, Wiseman had a discussion with Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy and Roberto's counsel, Joaquin Torres.

The jurors began deliberating on Monday afternoon.

Roberto, 41, is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. He is on trial on charges of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

SAFELY AT PORT MARK RABAGO

The Antigua and Barbuda-flagged Paul Russ is docked at the Port of Saipan last Friday morning after tugboats towed it to port Thursday night or three days after the container vessel ran aground on the channel between Saipan and Managaha Island.

Yumul: MVA didn't mind decreased budget

With revenues from the hotel tax hitting an all-time high, coupled with dearth of available hotel rooms, the Marianas Visitors Authority didn't mind a cut in its budget for fiscal year 2015.

House Tourism Committee chair Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said the $10.1 million MVA collected on hotel occupancy tax as of July 2014 will soften the decrease from $2.6 million to just $1 in the 2015 earmarks for MVA.

"During the budget discussion before we passed it, I sat down with [MVA managing director] Perry Tenorio and discussed the $1.16 million that was taken away for the hiring of teachers and whether they agreed with it or not. At the day end of the day, they said they didn't mind," said Yumul.

He, however, hopes that diverting the $1.16 million to fund 42 new positions at the Public School System would be a one-time deal.

"We made sure to keep a dollar in the [bank] account so it wouldn't be zeroed out so for next year if PSS doesn't need it, we can give a portion of the operational funds back to MVA."

Yumul is also keeping his fingers crossed that the all-time high on hotel occupancy tax collections is only the start of something big for MVA and the islands' rebounding tourism industry.

"There's been a big increase in hotel tax collections. Assuming that everything remains constant, we don't have any disasters and the arrival numbers remain the same, MVA stands to get $10 million in hotel tax [annually]."

He added that diverting $1.16 million from MVA to PSS is the right thing to do at the moment because the CNMI currently has a problem accommodating a high volume of tourists because of the lack of available rooms.

"We've been turning away tourists because we don't have the rooms. At this point in time, with no additional rooms opening, we can't really promote. We get to choose where to promote, to whether it's high-end tourist rather than just opening it up to everyone. We can't really afford opening it to everyone because of the lack of rooms."

Yumul said the CNMI should continue to promote to its key markets like Japan, China, Korea, and Russia, but ultimately should expand to Taiwan and Hong Kong markets after more hotel rooms are built. ***(Mark Rabago)***

CONTRACTOR

From Page 2

visory personnel" on the project are all qualified to all standards required by the contract's specifications.

Hanson said CUC's demands that Smithbridge replace all welders and "supervisory personnel" on the project without additional compensation to the company for the increased cost is not permitted under the contract documents.

Hanson also cited that throughout the progress of the project and Smithbridge's performance of the contract, CUC kept changing the contract's specifications without any modifications to the contract documents and disregarding the effect of such changes will have on Smithbridge's performance.

Hanson said any EPA requirements that CUC contract a construction manager and quality assurance contractor were not due to any deficiencies in Smithbridge's design or other issues with the company.

Hanson said that Smithbridge is entitled to damages, including lost profits, incidental and consequential damages, and litigation costs.

NMC

From Page 1

The proposed increase has drawn a strong response from some NMC students, with Riya Nathrani, interim president of the Associated Students of NMC, challenging the board to consider the hike's effect on student completion rates.

"If the increase does occur, students want better facilities, more programs, and more course sections," she said.

According to the college, the additional funds from a tuition hike are necessary to pay for critical expenses like instructors' salaries, as well as utilities and other expenses.

In a statement, the college noted the budget this week "was short [by] about $700,000 to cover current salaries."

It also noted that its $600,000 average in utility costs per year is not covered by the recent budget and will be paid by tuition and fees revenue.

Speaking on behalf of NMC students, Nathrani presented data gathered from a recent survey among students on the proposed tuition hike at yesterday's board meeting.

She also cited a petition calling for a gradual increase in tuition of about 10 percent per year.

"Students believe that the proposed amount of 35 percent increase in tuition and 57 percent increase in fees is too overwhelming, and about 147 have agreed and petitioned for an annual increase of 10 percent in tuition and fees. Like I said, they are not directly opposed to the tuition increase, we want it in small increments over time," she told the board.

The survey gathered 282 responses from about 1,200 of the college's students, according to Nathrani.

Out of 282 responses, 23 percent said they pay for college through direct funds from parents and family, 27 percent from working full- and part-time, and 18 percent from personal savings.

Some 46 percent of the respondents said they would register for fewer classes if the hikes in fees and tuition happen.

"We're trying to help students complete their degrees on time then we shouldn't pose them with a financial burden," she said.

She also compared fees and tuition with Guam Community College, the college's regional competition.

According to her, GCC has 23 programs of study, with foreign students charged about $180 per credit. NMC currently charges international students $190 per credit.

In just fees, international students would have to take on an increase $890, according to her.

"Although GCC is currently a bit more expensive than NMC, it has more opportunities and facilities. Guam has more opportunities, bigger businesses, a bigger tourism industry. This means more opportunities for students, so in order for us to compete with GCC, we need to provide a better institution or be cheaper," she said.

She reminded the board that students from Rota and Tinian also pay for room, board, and utilities—much like international students—and with the cost of textbooks high, students are forced to cut down on their living expenses.

According to its website, NMC currently charges $95 per credit, with a flat fee for students taking equal to or greater than 12 credits of $250, on top of other administrative fees.

The college said payment plans are available for student so the tuition hike should not present an undue burden.

QUAKE

From Page 1

terday that no tsunami watch or warning was in effect for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Seman said there were no reports of injuries and damage to property on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

As for Guam, Seman said he did not receive a report so far from Guam Homeland Security Civil Defense about injuries and damage to property.

According to the U.S. Geological Service, the earthquake occurred at 4:14pm, with the epicenter at 27 miles (44km) northwest of Piti Village, Guam at a depth of 83.2 miles (133.9km).

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said a destructive tsunami was not generated because the earthquake was located too deep inside the Earth.

Seman said they contacted government agencies on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and that there were no reports of injuries or damage to property.

Seman said they talked to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and gave him a briefing to ensure that nothing is compromised, that people are informed, and that core agencies are ready to respond if there would be any issues as a result of the temblor.

Seman said they would continue monitoring the situation as there might be aftershocks or even bigger earthquakes.

When asked about the possible cause of the temblor, Seman said it's basically from the plate shifting as the Philippine Plate and the Pacific Plate are constantly moving.

"So wherever the plates are, that's where most of the earthquakes are happening," he said.

Most of the staff at the U.S. District Court for the NMI said they felt the earthquake on the second floor of Horiguchi Building in Garapan, that it was strong and lasted about 20 seconds.

Court security officers and court marshals, however, did not feel the shaking on the ground floor. Those on the fourth and fifth floors of the building witnessed items shaking in their respective offices.

Last Aug. 13, a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred near Rota, prompting many residents on the island to run outside of buildings and houses.

GIAA

From Page 1

this manner prevents aeronautical activities at GIAA.

The letters also cite other violations of several FAA grant assurances, with a couple being Grant Assurance 22 that requires an airport to be made available for public use "without unjust discrimination to all types of…aeronautical activities" and Grant 23, which essentially requires that no "exclusive rights" would be given indirectly or directly to any corporation in the use of the airport.

"Basically you have Cape Air running an exclusive route between Saipan and Guam, while it's affiliated partner is squatting in the commuter terminal and blocking us from coming in," Christian said.

The issues were addressed repeatedly to GIAA, with some letters receiving no response or acknowledgement, according to Christian.

On Aug. 19 this year, Star Marianas met with GIAA, with discussion eventually leading to a request for Star Marianas to submit a proposed schedule of flights.

This was submitted with a proposed launch date for Sept. 15 this year.

However, a letter on Aug. 28 informed Star Marianas that it had been designated an interim location identified as the "Yellow Cargo Building" of the airport.

The letter also stated that Star Marianas would work with Guam Customs on processing and that once GIAA establishes a layout plan they would forward it to Star Marianas for comment.

There has been no layout forwarded to Star Marianas as of yesterday.

In its most recent letter to GIAA, Star Marianas noted that the use of a cargo building would place the airline at "a distinct and obvious disadvantage" compared to United/Cape Air.

"[Star Marianas'] customers are relegated to using a facility designed for cargo," the letter states.

The letter recognized that United Airlines and GIAA have some form of residual-cost financing in place to fund the Guam airport, but claimed the relationship should not outweigh the responsibility to meet the airport's assurances.

Yesterday, according to Christian, they filed a formal request to the FAA's regional office in Los Angeles, asking the office to look into the matter.

According to Star Marianas, they are ready to begin services to Guam pending the resolution of these issues.

Calls made to GIAA after office hours were not immediately returned.

Inos: CUC can overcome problems without receiver

Gov. Eloy S. Inos told reporters Tuesday that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can overcome its problems without a receiver as proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The governor also considers a loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust to pay off a portion of government agencies' over $20 million debt to CUC representing unpaid utility bills, and may also tap Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine.

Lawmakers who met with the governor and CUC executive director Alan Fletcher on Monday said the CNMI government will oppose EPA's request to the federal court to place some CUC projects under receivership.

The governor himself said Tuesday that CUC and the CNMI government are addressing the issues that EPA asked to be placed under receivership.

"Most of the problems that created this thing stemmed from inadequate or poor contractor performance, which is really beyond the control of CUC, although CUC could have done more close monitoring," the governor said after signing the 2015 budget law and two other revenue-generating measures on Capital Hill.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and other lawmakers have the governor's back on the matter.

"We believe that we can overcome these problems without a receiver. The receiver will cost a lot of money because the receiver basically reports to the judge and he is going to do what he feels he should do without regard to cost and the end result would be us paying for that cost so we do oppose it," Inos said.

The governor said if only there are available resources, the government would appropriate money to pay off debts to CUC.

"There hasn't been any appropriation simply because of the lack of resources but we're looking at ways to move cash and pay those debts down," he said.

He said he will communicate with MPLT "if they would be willing to do this [loan] again and hopefully will provide some cash flow to CUC and pay these debts down because they are really mounting."

Inos said while it is considered a loan, it is technically an "advance of the future interest income of the general fund from MPLT that's usually paid every year."

The governor does not believe MPLT can accommodate the full amount of debts to CUC, at over $20 million,

A portion, he said, would help, just like what it did when CUC tapped Aggreko during the years when Saipan experienced rolling blackouts.

Inos said the government is in fact "on the last leg, last payment of some $600,000 now."

The governor clarified that the CNMI cannot tap Covenant Section 702 or capital improvement project funds because the CUC debts are "operational" in nature.

When asked whether the government can request casino developer Best Sunshine to use its planned $10 million utility vouchers for CUC residential users, Inos said they haven't initiated anything on the matter.

He said the government didn't ask for the utility vouchers, but it was Best Sunshine's offer as part of their public contribution plan. Best Sunshine was granted an exclusive license to develop a $3.14-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

"Yes that's one of the things that we need to talk about but Best Sunshine is looking at how their program can benefit individual residents and they want to do that through the voucher system. If we convert it to a payment of agency accounts, then their promise to the residents would not be fulfilled unless they cough up another $10 million and so forth. But we'll be happy to look at that. If that's a viable thing, we'd like to get an agreement to do it but that would not help the individual residents as promised in the agreement," Inos added. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

VISITING PALAU LAWMAKERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Six lawmakers of Palau's House of Delegates, led by Delegate Lucio Ngiraiwet, pose with members of the CNMI House of Representatives for a group photo on Capital Hill Thursday. The Palau lawmakers were on Saipan on a casino legislation fact-finding mission, following Palau delegates' passage on first reading their own casino legalization bill two weeks ago.

Domestic violence case vs gas station robber dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"A marriage license is not a guarantee to a happy life."

Thus stated Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in his order that dismissed a domestic violence case filed against Joseph Celis San Nicolas.

In a written order yesterday, Camacho said that during Monday's preliminary hearing, the court found no probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt were committed and that San Nicolas may have committed the offenses.

Camacho dismissed the charges without prejudice, which means the government can refile the case in the future.

Camacho noted that court-appointed defense counsel Robert T. Torres' "masterful cross-examination" of the government's witness destroyed the government's case in the preliminary hearing.

As to the charge of disturbing the peace, police detective Therese Kintoki testified that the alleged victim was upset with San Nicolas because he used $10 to play poker instead of buying milk for their baby.

Although a reflection of San Nicolas' poor judgment as a husband and father, Camacho said this kind of disagreement is a social and marital issue and does not rise to the level of a criminal offense.

With respect to the charge of criminal contempt, Camacho said assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda failed to identify exactly which condition of release San Nicolas violated.

The judge said the government confuses the conditions of curfew and house arrest.

As to the charge of assault and battery, Camacho said the government failed to establish how the alleged victim got scratches on her lower back, when she stated that San Nicolas grabbed her mouth and neck.

Camacho said that Kintoki testified that it was the alleged victim that initiated the confrontation with San Nicolas, making her the initial aggressor.

The judge said Kintoki admitted that the investigation is still ongoing.

Camacho ordered that San Nicolas be released.

San Nicolas has a sentencing hearing on Oct. 14, 2014, at 9am before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio over a robbery at Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao.

San Nicolas pleaded guilty in the robbery case that happened on Feb. 8, 2014. His co-defendant, Christopher M. Igisomar, also pleaded guilty and was slapped with an eight-year prison term. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PSS eyes contracting maintenance services

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To address its shortage of maintenance personnel—with some schools having only one paid personnel for their campus—the Public School System is reviewing whether contracting out maintenance services may be more efficient, according to Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero.

"It might be economically better to do it that way and more efficiently done," Guerrero said.

He said this is something that Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan is looking at for PSS.

Citing the system's continued lack of funds, Guerrero said that "adding more personnel just won't cut it."

He said that PSS does not have enough money as "teachers are the priority."

"That poses a challenge for us," he said, adding that contracting out services will make, for example, cutting the grass for school campuses a deliverable service so that payment can be based on whether a task is done or done correctly.

"We just don't have enough staff to do those things," he said.

For fiscal year 2014, only a little over $2 million of its local budget of $32 million went to maintenance of operations and facilities, with the rest going to personnel salaries and wages, and utilities, according to an earlier PSS report.

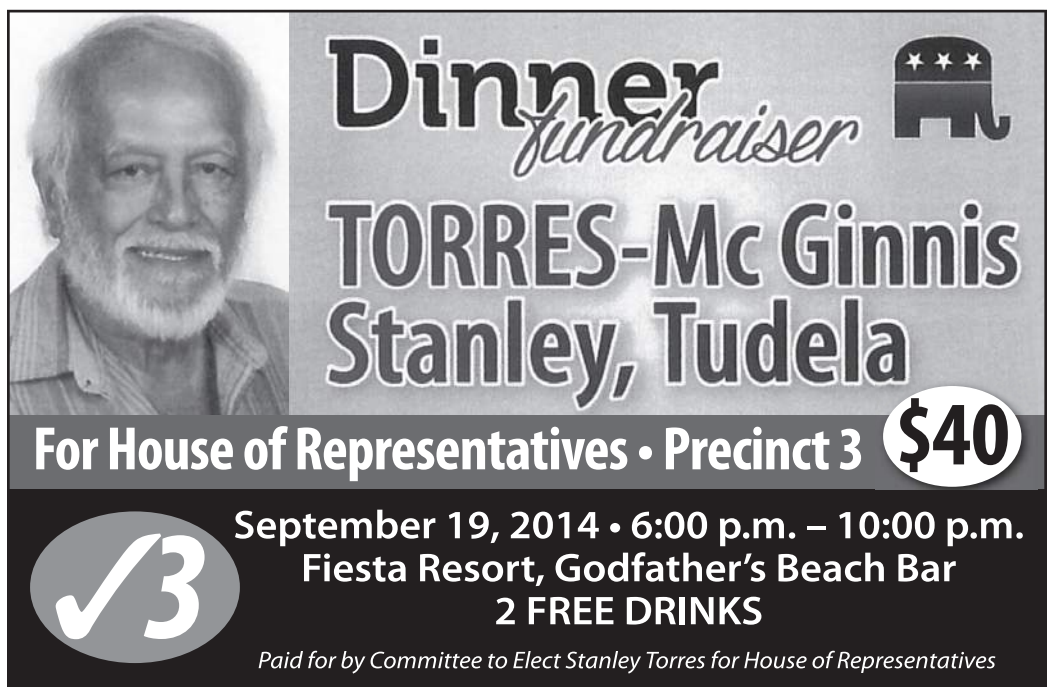
He said they are looking at contracting the maintenance service for groups of schools as opposed to single schools, and that they would like to get a contracted service as opposed to one person who would have to work "all over the place to maintain" school grounds.

Volunteers also assist with school maintenance.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera said the school is getting by on aid from community volunteers, noting that other schools do the same. "I saw one volunteer at another school. He volunteered the whole way from the day school opened until the day school ended."

She said this kind of help it "not uncommon" to help campuses maintain their grounds.

"We really appreciate their help," she said, adding that some of these volunteers await opportunities to be gainfully employed.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Paid for by Committee to Elect Stanley Torres for House of Representatives

ESGR Week pushes for employment of 'citizen warriors'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the 2,700 National Guard and military reserves between Guam and the CNMI, almost 500 are unemployed, according to David J. Sablan, state chair of the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"In Guam and Saipan, [the unemployment rate for the National Guard and Reserve is] closing to about 20 percent out of the 2,700 service members that we service in the region," Sablan said, noting that many of these service members go straight to the military after high school.

He said the U.S. Department of Defense has asked the ESGR to come up with an employment initiative program that will help unemployed service members find jobs and get them connected to potential employers.

"The [DOD] spends about over a billion dollars a year in unemployment compensation. If we can save several hundred million dollars worth of that funding, it makes a lot of sense," he said.

He also noted that unemployment rate amongst local service members is much higher than the national average.

The unemployed come from the U.S. Army, Navy Reserve as well as Coast Guard and Army Guard in the region.

Other than helping service members become gainfully employed, ESGR does outreach to the community and helps settles disputes between employers and employees.

"We try to make them understand that [service members] are special employees. They're willing to put their lives on the line, they're willing to die," he said.

ESGR in the Guam-CNMI region has a total of 20 volunteers, five of them in the CNMI and the rest in Guam, with an additional three staff members contracted through DOD and the National Guard, according to Sablan.

On Tuesday morning, Gov. Eloy Inos signed a proclamation declaring Sep. 15-19 ESGR Week.

The proclamation urges to families and employers to support the "citizen warriors" of Reserve and National Guard.

DENNIS B. CHAN
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve members pose with Gov. Eloy S. Inos for Tuesday morning's declaration of Sep 15-19, 2014, as ESGR week.

Chamorro language presentation today

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting a Chamorro language presentation today at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre in Garapan.

The council said there will be two visiting linguists: Dr. Sandy Chung and Dr. Matt Wagers, along with Manny F. Borja. They will do a special presentation on the Chamorro language and it is free to the public.

"They will be exploring how the Chamorro language differs across islands and across generations. Everyone knows there are differences in the Chamorro words people know and how they pronounce them, but what about the grammar," the council said.

The three presenters will be talking about their psycholinguistic experiments on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The experiments investigate how people understand relative clauses.

"Unlike English, which only has one word for relative clauses, Chamorro has three. This makes Chamorro a good language for investigating how speakers comprehend complex sentences," the council said.

Study results have revealed some interesting linguistic differences across three islands, but they also show the speaker's ability to understand relative clauses is fully maintained across the generations.

"The community is asked to help identify other differences in Chamorro grammar that could be investigated," the council said.

The presentation is sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council and funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information contact the council at 235-4785.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-002

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TSD/FHWA BRANCH, SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. FY-14(001)

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, delivery, Installation of Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) for the Department of Public Works, TSD/FHWA Branch, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 18, 2014, at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 6, 2014**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 10, 2014** to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **October 15, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **October 15, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 15, 2014** and must be received no later than **October 24, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **October 15, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General**. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance bonds, equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

CNMI International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 26, 27

Trash in our oceans, called marine debris, is one of the greatest threats to our planet's oceans and marine life. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect oceans and waterways. Last year in CNMI we picked up a total of 10,488 lbs of trash! A total of 748 volunteers collected 5,660 lbs of trash on Saipan, 263 volunteers collected 1,002 lbs of trash on Tinian, and 634 volunteers collected 3,826 lbs of trash on Rota.

It is not too late to sign up for 29th Annual International Coastal Cleanup! Get your friends, family, coworkers, club members, and anyone else to take an hour or two out of their Friday or Saturday and pick up trash. Join in CNMI's and the world's fight to keep our seas trash-free.

Trash not only becomes an eyesore on the beaches that residents and tourist enjoy, but it can also cause health issues from water pollution and dangers from stepping on trash (e.g. glass). Our wildlife is also in danger from the debris we find along our coast. They get entangled, ingest it, and in some cases it is the cause of their mortality.

Join this global and local effort! Put your community first and sign up for the International Coastal Cleanup on your island. Call your local coordinator and see what beaches are available for cleanup.

Please join us for the International Coastal Cleanup (also part of Let's Move Marianas) on Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. To accommodate community members who are unable to attend the Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, we will continue the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014, from 8:30am to 10:30am. This is an excellent opportunity for the whole community to come together and enrich the beauty of our islands.

To sign up, contact the CNMI International Coastal Cleanup event organizer, Avra Heller, at 664-8500 or via email at avrahellerdeq@gmail.com. On Rota contact Bill Pendergrass at william.pendergrass@crm.gov.mp or 532-0466.

You can also sign up online! Use the form found at this link: http://bit.ly/1uxFEfj. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Big spring cleaning garage sale set

The biggest spring cleaning garage sale ever will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27, starting at 7:30am at the driveway of the MVA parking lot. Items for sale are bicycle, razor scooter, books, clothes, shoes, toys, baby items, household items, suitcases, and many more. ***(PR)***

The Salvation Army's Family Fun Fair cancelled

Because of the bad weather in the last few days, The Salvation Army has cancelled its Family Fun Fair until further notice. The Family Fun Fair was supposed to take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, at the field in front of Hopwood Middle School on Beach Road. ***(PR)***

Diabetes coalition set membership meeting

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is scheduling their general membership meeting on Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, at the Office on Aging conference room from 9:30am to 11:30am. All CDC members as well as interested individuals, organizations, partner agencies from government and non-government, and faith-based organizations are invited to attend this meeting. For more information about the scheduled CDC meeting, contact Ayuda Network, Inc. at 234-7469 or via email at ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org. ***(Ayuda)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judicial assistant Vivian Dela Cruz, seated center, recently celebrated 30 years of professional association with Judge David A. Wiseman. The luncheon celebration included Commonwealth Superior Court judges and staff.

Wiseman's judicial assistant recognized for 30 years of service

Superior Court Judge David A. Wiseman recently held a special ceremony to present a plaque of appreciation to his judicial assistant, Vivian S. Dela Cruz, for her dedication and hard work during their 30-year professional association.

Dela Cruz's career with the judge encompasses 17 years as his secretary in his law office and more than 13 years as a judicial assistant while he has been on the bench.

At the special occasion—which was attended by family, judges, and court staff—the judge extended his "most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Vivian S. Dela Cruz for her three decades of dedicated, competent, and loyal service."

Dela Cruz expressed her appreciation of her long-term employment with Wiseman. "I am very thankful for having the opportunities he has afforded me. Words cannot express how blessed and how appreciative my husband, family, and I are to have such a wonderful boss in my life."

Dela Cruz was only 18 years old when she started working as Wiseman's secretary. She and her husband, Edward Dela Cruz, have three children—Edward Jr., Daphne, and Remedio—all born during her employment and for whom the judge and his wife, Faythe, are godparents. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judicial assistant Vivian Dela Cruz holds a plaque celebrating 30 years of professional association with Superior Court Judge David A. Wiseman. Also pictured are Faythe Wiseman and Vivian's daughter, Daphne.

Monetary reward for LOST PASSPORTS

Names:
Li Yan (Male)
Song Zi Yun (Female)
Country:
Republic of China

(Lost at Lao Lao Beach Area)
If found, please call LJ Tours at 285-1199 or 989-2869

Tickets to MINA's Green Gala are sold out

Due to the great response to the Green Gala event that will be held this Saturday, Sept. 19, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance has announced that tickets for the event have been sold out and that additional tickets will not be sold at the door.

"We want to thank all the individuals who have bought tickets and all the companies who have contributed to the Green Gala event," said Frankie Eliptico, MINA board chair. "We are working hard to put on a great event for everyone who has purchased tickets and to make them as comfortable as possible. Unfortunately, because of space limitations, we are unable to sell any more tickets."

The Emerald Sponsors for the event are United Airlines and Joeten.

The Title Sponsors for the event include Tan Holdings, IT&E, Bank of Guam, T Galleria, and Power 99.

Major Sponsors include The Shack, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chong's Corp., Bridge Capital, Pacific Trading Co., Mariana Resort and Spa, KKMP, Mariana Legal Strategies Group, *Marianas Variety*, Cape Air, Marianas Visitors Authority, Docomo, and Marianas Coffee.

Event Sponsors include Naked Fish, Pena House, Casa Urashima, MikeRonesia, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Dolphin Wholesale, GetFit CNMI, Herman's Bakery, National Office Supply, Lollipops, D&Q, Pacifica Insurance, Saipan Seventh Day Adventist Clinic, Salbahe Brand, Pacific Subsea, Gold's Gym, Che'lu Photography, Joe Weaver, Island Training Solutions, and JEM Co., LTD.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Teacher Environmental Camp, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Project, and the Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycle bins at all the major beaches on the island.

In addition to great entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

"It's going to be a great night for the environment," said Fran Castro, MINA board member. For more information about the Green Gala event, call the MINA office at 233-REEF (7333). ***(MINA)***

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Meetings of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday September 19, 2014 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend. The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
   a. Meeting Called to Order
   b. Determination of Quorum
   c. Public Comments
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes
IV. Electronic Gaming / Video Lottery
V. Executive Session
VI. Other Related Matters
VII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission at 664-2375.

SINCE 1914 AK 100 YEARS

AK TRAC Assistant Manager

Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc. is seeking an independent and outgoing individual who is looking for a dynamic career to fill the position of Toyota Rent a Car Assistant Manager. In this growth market the successful person will be responsible and accountable for the successful operation of the Toyota Rent a Car department.

Qualification
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- Minimum one year experience in service/sales in the travel, retail, or hospitality industry.
- Must be customer focused, results driven and possess the ability to consistently produce sales.
- Analytical skills capable of diagnosing numerical trends and targeting the root causes of performance below standards.
- Understands managing to achieve best practices performance environment.
- Ability to organize and express ideas and information clearly, accurately, and effectively through verbal and written capabilities.
- Must be professional and promote a positive attitude among customers and peers.
- Must be articulate and possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Flexibility to handle multiple tasks in an organized manner.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational skills and excellent Microsoft Office and operational computer skills.

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Local Tinian students get taste of Marine Corps life

By LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

TINIAN, North Marianas Islands—Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 participating in Valiant Shield 2014 visited the Tinian Junior Senior High School on Sept. 14.

The Marines gave students a taste of Marine recruit training, taught them about different military occupational specialties and introduced them to various military vehicles.

"We selected events that would give the students a broad look into the Marine Corps, varying from teaching students about communications, motor transportation and aircraft rescue firefighting to demonstrating Marine Corps martial arts, a partial (combat fitness test) and close order drill," said 1st Lt. Alexander Cloninger, the logistics officer with MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During the field meet, each group of students rotated through stations where Marine mentors explained different aspects and answered questions.

"It's a great experience for the kids," said retired Army 1st Sgt. Pete Salas, senior army instructor for the school's Junior Reserve Officer Training Course. "When the Marines come here, they show the students that the military is not just kicking down doors. That sparks an interest with the students—they see that there is a lot more to being in the infantry."

According to Salas, having service members come to the school helps students who are considering joining the military by showing them what they can be, and what they can do, from being in a firefight to being a firefighter.

"I enjoyed being out here," said Cpl. Jonathan Charles, a clerk with the squadron. "It's not often that you get the opportunity to help kids follow their dreams. This is something I would love to keep doing during my time on Tinian."

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets, offering joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.

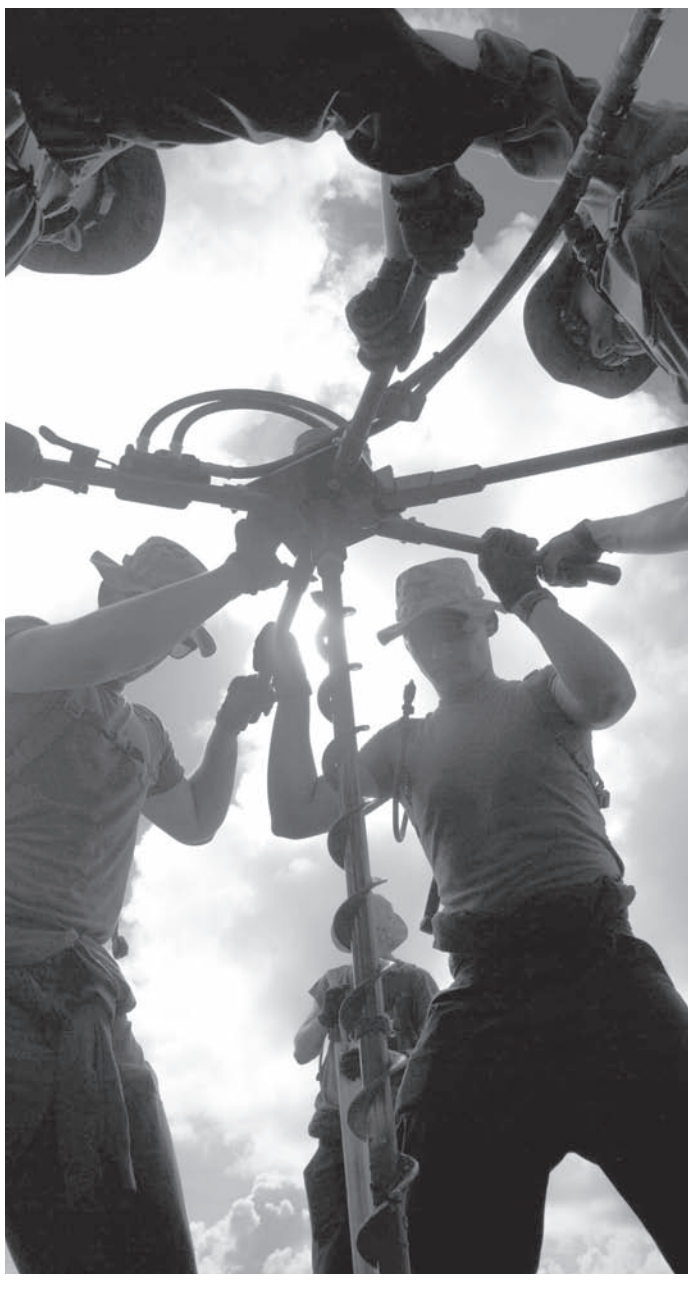
U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Charles Maddox addresses students at Tinian Junior Senior High School during a school visit. The Marines gave students a taste of Marine recruit training, taught them about different military occupational specialties and introduced them to different military vehicles. The Marines are on Tinian as part of Valiant Shield 2014, a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.

Arresting gear gives pilots no need to fear

By CPL. DAVID WALTERS
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

TINIAN, North Marianas Islands—Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadrons 171 and 172 completed the installation of the M31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear system at West Field, Tinian, in preparation of Valiant Shield 2014, which began Sept. 15.



U.S. MARINE CORPS/
CPL. DAVID A. WALTERS

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadrons 171 and 172, both currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, drill a hole into the ground as part of the M31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear system in preparation for Valiant Shield 2014.

The movable arresting gear is a system of cables and shock absorbers that can be set up on a runway to help aircraft safely stop in case of an emergency or if the runway is too short for a traditional landing.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Charles Dine, the expeditionary airfield fire and emergency services officer with MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, the expeditionary system is useful in the event an aircraft experiences a loss of hydraulics, brakes or any other system that may require the pilot to disembark the aircraft quickly.

Lance Cpl. Juan Gonzalez, an expeditionary airfield systems technician with MWSS-171, helped install the arresting gear last year.

"This is not a permanent install, it's an expeditionary install," said Gonzalez. "We take it when we leave, and when we come back out, we set it back up again."

"The arrested landings provide the pilots an opportunity to hit the arresting gear here in Tinian before they return to base in Guam."

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets. It offers joint-operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. VS14 is scheduled to run Sept. 15-23.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/
CPL. DAVID A. WALTERS

An FA-18C hornet with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, makes an arrested landing on Tinian using the M31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear system during Valiant Shield 2014.

Tinian mayor lists 7 bets for vacant TGCC seat

Because the term of one Tinian Gaming Control Commission member is due to expire in the immediate future, and because it requires four TGCC members to take official action on behalf of the commission, and because new investors have shown intense interest in the Tinian gaming industry, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz intends to fill that vacancy as soon as legally possible.

According to the Revised Act of 1989, Gaming Control Commission, the mayor must publish a list of qualified candidates in a local paper before an appointment is made.

According to the Act, the list shall be composed by the Office of the Mayor and include nominees from all Tinian political parties which are registered with the Commonwealth Board of Elections.

Dela Cruz's nominees are Manual P. Villagomez, Anthony U. Hofschneider, Don A. Farrell, Lucia M. Borja, David M. Cing, Deborah A. Fleming, and Concepcion M. Villagomez.

Dela Cruz believes that all these individuals are highly qualified to be members of the Tinian Gaming Control Commission, and that his list meets the requirements of the revised Tinian Gaming Control Act. ***(PR)***

International Festival of Cultures makes its debut

The inaugural International Festival of Cultures organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority kicked off to a solid start on Saturday, Sept. 13.

With 19 cultures represented, the festival offered live performances, international cuisine, arts and crafts, and cultural demonstrations to an enthusiastic crowd from 5pm to 11pm.

"The first night of the International Festival of Cultures was a good start, thanks to the solid crowd of first-time attendees who came out and the cooperation of Mother Nature," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "All the seats were filled at the stage, and participants had the opportunity to join some dances on stage, as well. Although similar to the Garapan Street Market and the Flame Tree Arts Festival, the International Festival of Cultures is unique in its full emphasis on culture. We encourage attendees to visit all the booths starting at Beach Road down Paseo to Coral Tree Avenue and take full advantage of this opportunity to learn about and enjoy the many cultures represented in our island home. Come out in your cultural attire this Saturday!"

Chamorro dancers perform at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. MVA

MVA

Lawrence Deleon Guerrero serves up traditional Hawaiian food at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

Fresh coconuts were served at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

Representatives of Yap shared their traditional attire and skills at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for three additional Saturdays at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

The hourly entertainment lineup this Saturday will be Japan, Korea, and Bangladesh beginning at 6pm; Philippines, China, and Palau beginning at 7pm; Tahiti, Marquesas, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji beginning at 8:05pm; New Zealand and Chuuk beginning at 9:15pm; Kosrae and Northern Marianas Chamorro and Carolinian beginning at 9:55pm.

Each night various cultural groups from the Pacific and Asia will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine, and arts and crafts. Demonstration booths will include coconut-rope making, Chinese calligraphy, basket weaving, *mwar*-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Avenue.

Booths open at 5pm. Performances begin at 6pm and the event will run until 11pm. Admission is free and open to the public. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Representatives of the Kosrae community sing at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

Audience members join Carolinian dancers onstage at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 13, 2014, on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Will Scotland choose independence?

Voters in Scotland this week could end their country's 300-year-old union with England. That possibility perplexes not only many Britons but also President Obama, the leader of a country that chose to "dissolve the political bands" with England in 1776. In June, Obama said that the United States had a "deep interest" in ensuring that the United Kingdom remained "strong, robust, united and an effective partner." (More recently, the State Department said that Thursday's referendum is "an internal United Kingdom matter.")

At first glance, the case for independence seems underwhelming. Unlike their cousins in the Republic of Ireland, Scots have not been the victims of prolonged political discrimination or religious persecution. Unlike pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine, they don't long to join another nation. Unlike secessionists in Catalonia or the Basque country, they aren't driven by ethnic, linguistic or cultural distinctiveness.

What's more, Scotland already enjoys considerable autonomy, with its own legal and educational systems and established (Presbyterian) church. Advocates of independence also say they want Scotland to remain in the European Union.

Paradoxically, advocates of independence portray continuity as an argument for secession. The Scottish National Party cheerfully assures Scots that after independence "the queen will be our head of state, the pound will be our currency and you will still be watching your favorite programs on TV. As members of the EU, there will be open borders, shared rights, free trade and extensive cooperation." It's also possible that an independent Scotland would remain in NATO, though advocates of independence have sent mixed signals about whether British nuclear-armed submarines could still be stationed in Scotland.

So why bother? The centerpiece of the case for independence is the claim that Scots are ill-represented in the British parliament. The Conservatives, who currently govern the UK in coalition with the Liberal Democrats, have minuscule support in Scotland, where there is more backing for public investment and a strong social safety net.

On the eve of the referendum, Britain's three major parties—the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and the Labor Party—are offering to give the Scottish parliament increased ability to levy taxes and make budgetary decisions. Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne called this "the best of both worlds"—greater self-government without the uncertainties of independence. Chief among those uncertainties is the fear that Scotland's separation might drive investors and the financial services industry to move south.

It's not for the U.S.—or an American newspaper—to tell Scots how to vote. But it's notable that both supporters and opponents of independence are stressing continuity, not rupture. If Scotland becomes independent, it will do so in a very British way.

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Will the NFL do the right thing

By JEFF BENEDICT
Los Angeles Times

Jeff Benedict is a special features writer for Sports Illustrated *and the author of* The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

A lot of attention has been paid lately to the long-term damage NFL players suffer from concussive hits that are inherent to the game. But the league has consistently turned a blind eye to blows sustained by women at the hands of many NFL players over the last two decades.

That all changed this week when TMZ published a video of Ray Rice knocking out his then-fiancee (now wife) Janay Palmer in an Atlantic City casino hotel elevator on Feb. 15. Within hours, the Baltimore Ravens cut Rice and the NFL suspended him indefinitely.

Commissioner Roger Goodell called the video "sickening" and insisted that neither he nor other league officials had previously seen it. But months earlier a publicly released video showed Rice dragging his unconscious fiancee from the elevator and leaving her limp body on the floor. That wasn't sickening enough?

Not to the NFL, apparently. Among other missteps, the Ravens posted the following statement on Twitter on May 22: "Janay Rice says she deeply regrets the role that she played the night of the incident."

Worse, Ravens Coach John Harbaugh, in an effort to support his player, said: "It's no big deal. I stand behind Ray. He's a heck of a guy."

It was only after Rice was sentenced to probation and ordered to enter a pretrial treatment program for first-time offenders that the commissioner suspended him, and then only for two games. Given that the NFL suspends players caught with pot for four games, the two-game penalty seemed pathetic.

In August, Goodell publicly apologized for the way he had handled the matter, and he unveiled a new policy that calls for an automatic six-game suspension for "a first-time violation ... regarding assault, battery, domestic violence or sexual assault that involves physical force." A second offense would result in a lifetime ban from the NFL.

It's a nice gesture. But it appears hollow. Days after Goodell made the announcement, San Francisco 49ers defensive end Ray McDonald was arrested on suspicion of assaulting his pregnant girlfriend. The police report refers to visible injuries. Despite complaints from fans and retired 49ers who are in the Hall of Fame—Steve Young and Ronnie Lott—the team allowed him to play and the league stood behind that decision.

So this nagging truth remains: It should not take a graphic video to get the NFL to do the right thing. For too long the NFL has had an antiquated playbook when it comes to players who commit domestic violence.

I first encountered this in 1997 while conducting research for the book "Pros & Cons: The Criminals Who Play in the NFL." For the book, we analyzed 264 criminal complaints filed against NFL players on rosters during the 1997 season, and found that 47 of them involved alleged domestic violence. NFL players were charged with domestic violence more often than with any other crime. Yet time and again, the NFL took no action, and if players were cut by one team after being arrested, they were often quickly picked up by another.

And some of these cases involved allegations of chronic spousal abuse and violence far more graphic than what was captured in the Ray Rice video. Here are just two examples:

A top player on the Miami Dolphins allegedly choked and beat his pregnant fiancee in the shower. Months later, shortly after the baby was born, the player was accused of severely beating his wife again. Yet even after he pleaded guilty to lesser charges as part of a deal and served jail time, the league did not sanction him.

A member of the Atlanta Falcons allegedly tore his 3-week-old child from his girlfriend's arms before beating the mother over the head while threatening to kill her with a handgun. He later was accused of kidnapping and beating the same girlfriend in a car and charged with aggravated assault, two counts of kidnapping, reckless endangerment and false imprisonment. He pleaded guilty to a lesser felony as part of a plea bargain, and was cut by the Falcons. But he received no discipline from the NFL and was picked up by another team by the start of the next season.

The NFL was well aware of these two cases and scores more like them. But back then, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello infamously told the Washington Post: "We're not the criminal justice system. We can't cure every ill in society. You know, we're putting on football games. And unless it impacts the business, we have to be very careful about the disciplinary action we take. A player has rights too."

The NFL likes to point out that its players do not commit acts of violence against women at a higher rate than males in the general population. That's true. It's also irrelevant.

The bottom line is that NFL players aren't like men in the general population, especially in the eyes of children. Rather, NFL players are seen as action heroes who epitomize strength, athleticism and toughness. That's why so many kids emulate them.

And that's why one instance of a celebrated player using his muscle to harm a woman is too many.

The sad fact is that the most memorable hit of the 2014 NFL season will end up being one in which a player knocked out a woman in an elevator. Meantime, the NFL continues to pay lip service to

See NFL on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Direchon Indihinau (Natibu)

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Guaha siha sustansiau na asuntun indihinau (natibu) ni debi ta atetuye umina, ebalua, analisa, yan dumeskute gi hilu` antau na inadiñgan.

Yangin ta diskuida hit, pues mas abarambau hinanau-ta gi halom manadan asunto-ta siha ni dumimanda lokue` attension-ta.

Lai federat yan mit pot mit na regulasion kada sakan man-malagnos ginen iya Washington, D.C. Tatnai ta huñgog i delegadu as Kilili ha mente haf` ennau siha na areglu. Sumen impottante na u listu umatan lai federat yan regulasion siha para una` seguru na ti ha aminasa i inakonfotman gi papa` i Covenant. Mas ke sientu tantus na lai federat para u fan mapreparaye regulasion. Hafa este siha? Mampos udu i delegadun Marianas guine na puntu!

Adahe para u guaha man-mapresu tautau-ta pot man-mañgone` fanihi. Haye na pelun chichichu fanihi? Na ti patte i neñkanu` natibu gi kutturaña? Haye dumeklara na piligru makone` i fanihi? Hafa i motibu? Guaha `nai ma-atan halom i pachot hagas botkan giya Alimagan?

Na ti este na disision umaminasa hafa patte gi sentadan natibu? Haf` na masede este sin kabales na estudiu `sino hinisga? Debi i natibu umatatñga gi direchoña! Gigon ta fatkeluye, humalom i ahensian federat man-dispone. Kada lokue` umentalu` ha utut direchon natibu gi guiya solamismu siña dumispone.

Yangin membron lehislatura hau, dididi` kulan ñaba` hau gi ininan este siha na asuntu. Gi kada biahe `nai losus hau, un` yute` mas direchon natibu gumubietnan maisague`. Poresu na debi gume`luluye komite`an federat u listu rumikohe haf` humuhuyuñg ginen Washington sa` sessu lanan lokue` si Kilili` gi lamasaña.

Puntu: Un` membron lehislatura sumañgan na debi i publiku u tuñgu` kabales todu pot planun usun iya Pagan. Ya haf` na inna` silensiu konsiderasion, sin pattisipasion i publiku, i asuntun casino? Sen ti umaya i man-sañgan yan i man-chogue entalu` alacha yan pa`gu. Haf` mohon?

Gastu: Ayu na apas hospitat i mafanana`an "deductible", entalu` $500-$1,000 pesus, depende gi minedoñg familia inipos na makat kontrariu kontra monedan familia. Huñgan ni unu umañega attension setbision mediku lau haf` i man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni` na satbasion para ayudun familia gi este na higante? Na ti magahet na pot 20 años taya hatsadan sueddu guine?

Atgoya: Kanaha` dies años kumuleka i CUC gi asuntun para umarebaha apas kandet. Ginacha` induktu hombre ni otden kotten federat gi `nos kuantos asuntu ti siña ha komple. Humalom pa`gu i EPA para uma-espihaye tahguen CUC chumogue i makat hana` fonhayan.

Tantu de humugandu huegon politika yan man-sabiun I Deni`, ginacha` todu klasen induktu na ni para u aregla i power plant gi Lower Base ti ha lañgag sa` ni fondu taya`. Debi maseha haf` para u chogue para mona na umaguatdia gi sinsiyu na eskalera pot no ginen otru diskuidu para u sapet mas i pbliku gi apas kandet.

Suena: Gi suenan tatalu` pueñge, hoñgga pineduñg trosun uchan gi atuf i gima`. Hu hala sabanas-hu para bai onno`yu` siakassu hinilat i lasas kueru ni maneñgheñg pueñge.

Gi chatagmag, suena gi chagu` katen gayu ni sige ha fatta finatton oga`an. Kahulu`yu` chumupa para bai tagam kinahulu` atdau yan primet pusuelon kafe.

Fresku na oga`an piot sa` inichane i tanu` gi paiñge. `Nai sige muma`lag ininan atdau, sige lokue` adumididi` maliñgu i sirenu. Gofha`an na ha`ane.

Hu deka` i gafu` gi tronku lau `nai hu puta`, na`gao. Pues hu usune dumeka` i mas tagpapa` na pontan. Hu kacha`, kamyu para bai` leche ilun laggua yan gualafe. Paire na sentada dispues.

Kustumbre? Kasse hayun isla i para tafan lodu` yan masegat diariu. Ta kanu`e gi kada sentada estake man-haspog hit. Lau `nai sige natibu man-chetnot korason ta bira hit ya mas guaha inadahe gi haf` ta sumumuke pachot-ta.

Tai malefaghu `an mali`e hit mayaye man-mamaisen kau malañgu hau. `Nai kulan loddu` sinturamu mañguentos ta`lu na adahe i "stroke". Taya` linachiña medision medianu yan dididi` inadahe gi sentadamu. Todu mampos ti mauleg. Pasensiaye pot hinemlo`mu mismu!

Presetbasion: Gi antigun na komunidan tautau-ta, entre matala`, ha`me `sino ma-asne i guihan yan katne pot taya` guihe na tiempu kahun ais (icebox). Estague` dos manera `nai mapresetba pininu` pinegsai pat kineni` buyada na guihan.

Guaha lokue` tumuñgu` presetbasion agu`un haya deste mahafot gi papa` tanu` esta ineskomen mai`es. Kasse eskomen mai`es mas ma`ug. Otru siha agu`un tat kumu choda, suni, kamute, dagu yan nika mana` fan gasgas ya man-mapega estake listu para umana` lagu.

Paire na mirienda atulin harina, dididi` finadeni` asnen tukun, alaguan, atulin kalamasa, pat atmayas mai`es. Tamales aga`, suni, mendioka, saibog yan buñelos dagu piot gi tiempon ha`anen gupot siha. Mina` dagu i usun este na tiempu layeye pot estague` tiempoña makusecha.

Guaha siha na agu`un natibu manñge` lokue` `an malomug. Lau hasan lusuñg para man-lomug lemai yan suni. I mitate para manguleg mai`es. Pa`gu `an tatnai un` chage usun manu, pues ni un` falag manu, ti u famtu` ginilegmu eskome.

**Ña`ot:** Guiya `ste i chada` guihan yan pañglau. I guihan mamigan, i pañglau mañgulales. I tatatte malag i kantun tasi ya ha sotta chada`ña. Dispues de man-mapulakes `nai ha bira siha halom gi tanu`.

Hu chage mamigan kichu ni gatdun gi tekin. Ti hu nesessita totche. Namase` i hagmañg `an para u e`suette gi sepblaghu. Paire mañgulales na pañglau maka`et.

Pa`gu `an guahu munagasgas kachu`, pues kasse haspogyu` antes de bai dibana i sensin para sashimi. Dididi` na asiga yan doni` sale nahoñg para bai` nafagpu` nobenan kanton labadot.

■■■

Kada ratu mañguentos i membron lehislatura na debi problema siha u fan masatba. Dispues, ha bira siha ya mapatek i lata papa` gi hegsu I Deni` sin u atrebi siha mañaunau gi satbasion problema. Anog na siha i mas dañkulu na problema ke problema mismu! Dios mihu na che`chu` kabron!

US airlines and the great reclining seat wars

By STEVEN CONN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Steven Conn is a professor of history at Ohio State University and the author of Americans Against the City: Anti-Urbanism in the 20th Century. *He wrote this for the* Philadelphia Inquirer.

There's an old "Seinfeld" episode where Jerry and Elaine are about to board a plane and the gate attendant tells them she can bump one of them into first class. Jerry immediately takes the offer, explaining to Elaine that he's flown in first class before—she hasn't—so he knows what he would be missing. Sure enough, Jerry spends the flight sipping champagne with a super-model while Elaine sits in a middle seat squeezed between two fat guys who fall asleep on her.

Nowadays, that episode is less comedy and more documentary.

I thought about Jerry and Elaine when I heard about the Great Reclining Seat Wars that have broken out over American skies. The war has pitted those who want to recline their airplane seats against those who have purchased a nifty device called the "Knee Defender," which effectively blocks the person in front of you from relaxing into your lap.

Fights have broken out over the Knee Defender and beverages have been tossed in anger. Flights have even been diverted because reclining passengers and their nonreclining antagonists couldn't share space in peace.

Like that "Seinfeld" episode, this is all pretty funny until you start to think about it some more. Then it isn't.

Anyone who has flown a U.S. carrier on a domestic flight knows that the experience has become increasingly awful. Shabby planes, miserly service, and, of course, less and less space. Only toddlers, who on American flights must pay full-fare, have enough room to sit. The experience is even more infuriating if you compare it with flying on a European airline. The difference between flying Lufthansa or LOT vs. United or USAir is like the difference between eating prosciutto and Spam.

But life for those in the front of the plane has gotten ever more luxurious, even while those of us in steerage class have been defending our knees and throwing drinks at each other. Business and first-class flying has become more and more an extension of the concierge economy of the 1 percent, only with wings. Food, drink, their own wait-staff, exclusive bathrooms, and even expedited security—because terrorists only fly coach, apparently. Meanwhile, I fully expect airlines to install coin-operated toilets soon for those of us in the back of the air-bus.

Surely, though, those people up front deserve all those perks, right? They paid for those tickets and the first rule of economics is: You get what you pay for.

Here's where it gets more maddening, however. Some number of those flyers up front are flying on business. Their companies are paying for those flights. Those companies, in turn, get to deduct travel expenses from their taxes. That's right: first-class, publicly subsidized.

That's why these outbursts of anger on recent flights perfectly encapsulate our culture of economic inequality. The leg-room at the front of the plane has come at the expense of the rest of us, and in two directions. First, since the planes themselves haven't changed dimensions, the redesigned plushness for the flying 1 percent has been created by squeezing the knees of the rest of us. And second, when corporations write off this travel on their taxes, the rest of us get stiffed.

Yet, in scenes that Karl Marx would have enjoyed, the flying proletariat have turned on each other, fighting over what few inches of space and what few ounces of our dignity remain. And while we skirmish over personal space, the folks in the single-digit rows stretch their legs out a bit more.

I'd like to propose a truce between the knee defenders and the knee bangers. You're both right. It is more comfortable to recline that seat and it provides a modicum of relaxation. It is also rude to the person behind you, physically uncomfortable and even claustrophobic. I don't need to get any closer to you than I already am.

Instead, let's channel that anger toward the airlines themselves. They created the Big Squeeze. They put pampering the few above providing the rest of us with a handful of pretzels.

Every so often you hear about a local judge sentencing a slumlord who has broken some law to a month living in one of his own rat-infested firetraps. Let's have Congress do something similar: For one month every year, U.S. airline executives should be forced to fly with the rest of us. In the back row by the bathroom. In that middle seat between the two dozing fat guys.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student safety

If PSS is not responding to the questions I raised a few weeks ago about students' safety in school premises, then we can conclude that PSS does not have such policies. When this happens, parents whose children are attending any of the public schools in the CNMI should be aware that when a child is injured during school days, the victim has grounds to sue PSS for its failure to promulgate policies addressing students' safety in the schools. On the other hand, when an administering agency fails to follow its own polices, or rules and regulations, it is fatal to the deviant. This matter is important, and PSS should know about that.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

NFL

From Page 10

how seriously it takes domestic violence.

This last week, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson insisted: "I stand firmly against domestic violence." Yet his team continues to allow defensive lineman Greg Hardy to play while he appeals his conviction on charges of assaulting and threatening to kill his girlfriend. A Mecklenburg County, N.C., judge found Hardy guilty in July after his girlfriend testified: "I was so scared I wanted to die."

The NFL is in dire need of male leadership when it comes to violence against women. In the wake of the Rice video's release, Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti sent a letter to stakeholders that outlined mistakes, apologized and promised a better response in the future. "We can help put more of a spotlight on intimate partner violence," he wrote, "while increasing education and awareness to this issue to all in our organization."

The best weapon the NFL has against domestic violence is its legions of past and current players who are model husbands and fathers. They are the silent majority. Those men have the power to change the culture. The league just needs to give them a platform.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

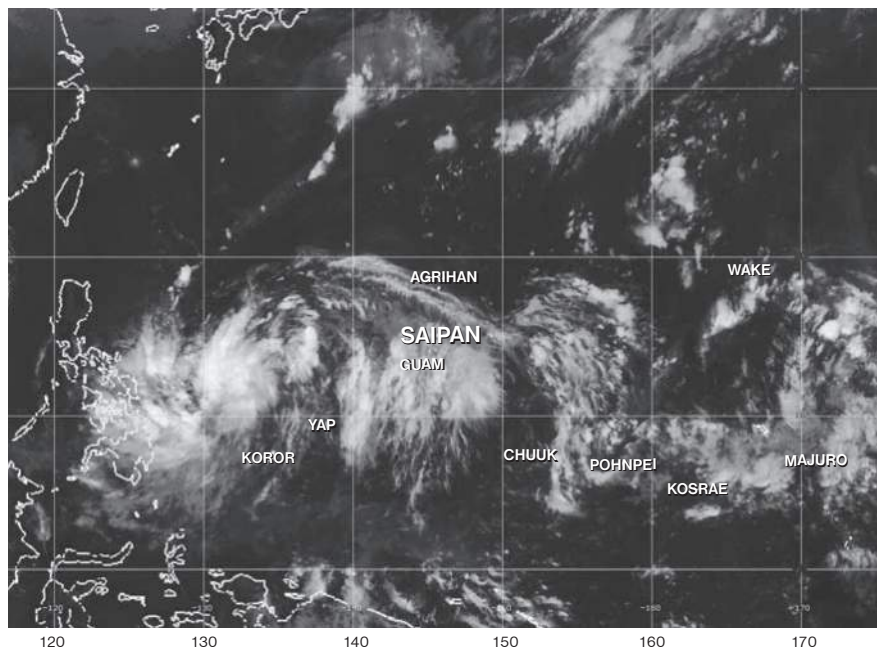
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲88	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼65
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼53
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼61
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼66
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼70
Salem	Showers	▲78	▼57
San Francisco	Showers	▲70	▼61
Seoul	Sunny	▲80	▼56
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲77	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches east-southeastward from near Luzon through 15N130E and a broad circulation centered southeast of Guam near 11N147E to end northwest of Enewetak atoll at 12N160E. Divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near these features east of the Mariana Islands and north of Chuuk within 230 miles of a line from 19N150E to 9N154E. Similar conditions are also found south of the circulation between 1N and 9N from 142E to 149E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen over the Mariana Islands between 11N and 17N from 142E to 146E. Converging surface winds are causing scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 4N from 152E to 158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:02 AM	2:05 PM
Friday	1:51 AM	2:49 PM
Saturday	2:39 AM	3:30 PM
Sunday	3:27 AM	4:11 PM
Monday	4:14 AM	4:50 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Anheuser-Busch, McDonald's voice NFL disapproval

By MAE ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Major sponsors including Anheuser-Busch are adding to the chorus of disapproval over the National Football League's recent scandals, but the companies are stopping short of pulling advertising.

Anheuser-Busch said Tuesday that it has spoken with the NFL about concerns related to recent incidents that are sparking outcry from fans, including an investigation into how long the NFL and its commissioner Roger Goodell knew about a video that shows Baltimore Raven Ray Rice beating his then-fiancee; as well as the Minnesota Vikings' decision to let Adrian Peterson play while he faces an abuse charge for spanking his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch.

McDonald's, Visa and Campbell Soup Co. say they have also voiced similar concerns to the league.

The statements come after Radisson hotels said Monday that it was pulling its sponsorship of the Minnesota Vikings. No other brands have pulled sponsorships from teams or the NFL.

But the statements from sponsors are becoming increasingly strongly worded.

Only last week, several big sponsors like GM and FedEx said they were monitoring the situation or watching it closely. Others like Anheuser-Busch and Procter & Gamble stayed silent.

This week, sponsors are making it clear they have made the NFL aware of their concerns. A-B used the harshest language, saying it was "disappointed and increasingly concerned."

The NFL responded to the sponsors' statements late Tuesday with a short statement of its own:

"We understand. We are taking action and there will be much more to come," the organization said.

As the NFL and various team executives navigate scandal, much is at stake: The money companies pay each year to be official sponsors -not including advertising and promotions- is worth about $1.07 billion for the league and all of its teams, according to sponsorship consultancy IEG. The NFL is a coveted partner for brands since an average of 17.4 million people tune in during a regular season NFL game, about 65 percent men and 35 percent women, according to Nielsen.

US CEOs less optimistic about hiring, spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Optimism among chief executives at the largest U.S. companies fell in the July-September quarter after reaching a two-year high in the previous quarter.

The Business Roundtable said Tuesday that its CEO outlook index fell to 86.4 in the third quarter, down from 95.4 in the April-June period.

Fewer CEOs expect to hire in the next six months: Just 34 percent plan to add jobs, down from 43 percent. And only 39 percent plan to boost their capital spending, down from 44 percent.

Nearly three-quarters of the chief executives expect higher sales, the same as in the second quarter.

Randall Stephenson, CEO of AT&T Inc. and chairman of the Roundtable, blamed the decline of the index on Congress' failure to extend temporary tax breaks that encourage research and development and investment spending.

The survey was conducted from Aug. 11 to Aug. 29, and 135 of the Business Roundtable's 200 CEOs responded.

The index's fall "reflects a slow growth economy that ebbs and flows and stops and starts and is underperforming previous recoveries," Stephenson said. Overseas conflicts in the Ukraine and Middle East have also weighed on executives' optimism.

Chief executives were encouraged in the second quarter by the expectation that Congress would extend the tax breaks, Stephenson said. But now they are more hesitant about spending on machinery and other capital equipment because it is unclear whether Congress will be able to extend them before the end of the year.

Stephenson also said that a rash of U.S. companies moving offshore to avoid U.S. taxes through a process known as "inversion" has been prompted by the nation's relatively high corporate tax rate. Business groups have been pushing the Obama administration and Congress to cut the rate as part of broader corporate tax reform, though little progress has been made so far.

"To the extent that U.S. businesses anticipated meaningful tax reform, these inversions would taper off very rapidly," Stephenson said during a conference call with reporters.

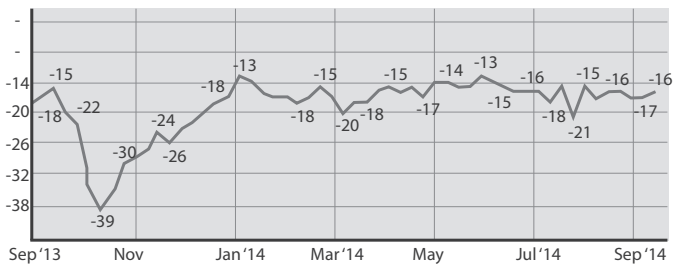
Most economic data suggest the economy is growing, though only at a modest pace. Hiring slowed in August as employers added just 142,000 jobs, the fewest this year. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent from 6.2 percent.

AP

In this Aug. 19, 2014 file photo, Jessica Pimentel, of Hollywood, Fla., fills out a job application during a job fair in Sunrise. Fla.

U.S. economic confidence

Gallup's analysis of Americans' views of current economic conditions. For the week ending Sept. 14, 19 percent of Americans said the economy was "excellent" or "good," while 35 percent said the economy was "poor." This resulted in an index score of -16.



Source: Gallup
Graphic: Erik Rodriguez

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Landmark fracking study finds no water pollution

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The final report from a landmark federal study on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, found no evidence that chemicals or brine water from the gas drilling process moved upward to contaminate drinking water at a site in western Pennsylvania.

The Department of Energy report, released Monday, was the first time an energy company allowed independent monitoring of a drilling site during the fracking process and for 18 months afterward. After those months of monitoring, researchers found that the chemical-laced fluids used to free gas stayed about 5,000 feet below drinking water supplies.

Scientists used tracer fluids, seismic monitoring and other tests to look for problems, and created the most detailed public report to date about how fracking affects adjacent rock structures.

The fracking process uses millions of gallons of high-pressure water mixed with sand and chemicals to break apart rocks rich in oil and gas. That has led to a national boom in production, but also to concerns about possible groundwater contamination.

But the Energy Department report is far from the last word on the subject. The department monitored six wells at one site, but oil or gas drilling at other locations around the nation could show different results because of variations in geology or drilling practices. Environmentalists and regulators have also documented cases in which surface spills of chemicals or wastewater damaged drinking water supplies.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NASA picks Boeing and SpaceX to ferry astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA is a giant step closer to launching Americans again from U.S. soil. On Tuesday, the space agency picked Boeing and SpaceX to transport astronauts to the International Space Station in the next few years. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden named the winners of the competition at Kennedy Space Center, next door to where the launches should occur in a few years. The deal will end NASA's expensive reliance on Russia to ferry astronauts to and from the space station. NASA has set a goal of 2017 for the first launch from Cape Canaveral, but stressed it will not sacrifice safety to meet that date.

Blacks, Hispanics have doubts about media accuracy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new study shows a large majority of African-American and Hispanic news consumers don't fully trust the media to portray their communities accurately, a statistic that could be troubling for the news industry as the minority population of the United States grows. Three-fourths of African-American news consumers and two-thirds of Hispanics have doubts about what mainstream media report about their communities, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Media Insight Project. And while most say it's become easier to get news generally in the last five years, few feel the same way about news regarding their own community, the survey said. African Americans and Latinos currently make up a third of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

UPS expects to hire up to 95,000 seasonal workers

DALLAS (AP)—UPS plans to hire up to 95,000 workers to help deliver packages during the busy holiday season—an increase from last year, when the company was caught unprepared for a boom in online shopping. The Atlanta-based company said Tuesday that the positions will include package sorters, loaders, delivery helpers and drivers. Last year, UPS underestimated the surge in deliveries during the holiday shipping season, which peaked several days later than the company had expected as shoppers jumped at offers of free shipping right up until a few days before Christmas. With faulty forecasts, the company didn't hire enough seasonal help.

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In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1024	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7509	Philippine Peso	44.165
British Pound	0.6142	Indian Rupee	60.9975	Singapore Dollar	1.2625
Canadian Dollar	1.0972	Indonesian Rupiah	11943	South Korean Won	1035.3
Chinese Yuan	6.1445	Japanese Yen	107.235	Swiss Franc	0.9337
Euro	0.7721	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2205	Taiwan Dollar	30.1525
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2223	Thailand Baht	32.2332

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$19.95

Intex Ocean Reef 8ft Snapset Pool
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Cosco 5 pc Table & Chair Set
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Northwest Territory 5ft Blow Mold Table
$48.95

Essential Home 3pc Swivel Barstool Set
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$299.95
Essential Home Hayden 5 pc Dining Set

$49.95
Essential Home Belmont Night Stand

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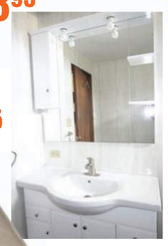

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Top general: US ground troops possible in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—American ground troops may be needed to battle Islamic State forces in the Middle East if President Barack Obama's current strategy fails, the nation's top military officer said Tuesday as Congress plunged into an election-year debate of Obama's plan to expand airstrikes and train Syrian rebels.

A White House spokesman said quickly the president "will not" send ground forces into combat, but Gen. Martin Dempsey said Obama had personally told him to come back on a "case by case basis" if the military situation changed.

"To be clear, if we reach the point where I believe our advisers should accompany Iraqi troops on attacks against specific ISIL targets, I will recommend that to the president," Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, declared in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee. He referred to the militants by an alternative name.

Pressed later by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the panel's chairman, the four-star general said if Obama's current approach isn't enough to prevail, he might "go back to the president and make a recommendation that may include the use of ground forces."

Dempsey's testimony underscored the dilemma confronting many lawmakers as the House moves through its own debate on authorizing the Pentagon to implement the policy Obama announced last week. In Iraq on Tuesday, the U.S. continued its expanded military campaign, carrying out two airstrikes northwest of Irbil and three southwest of Baghdad.

After the hearing, Dempsey told reporters traveling with him to Paris that the Pentagon had concluded that about half of Iraq's army was incapable of partnering effectively with the U.S. to roll back the Islamic State group's territorial gains in western and northern Iraq, and the other half needs to be partially rebuilt with U.S. training and additional equipment.

Dempsey said in the interview that U.S. military teams that spent much of the summer in Iraq assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the Iraqi security forces concluded that 26 of 50 army brigades were capable partners for the U.S. He described them as well led and well equipped, adding, "They appear to have a national instinct, instead of a sectarian instinct." He said the 24 other brigades were too heavily weighted with Shiites to be part of a credible national force.

Democrats in Washington spoke of a fear that the United State might inevitably become dragged into yet another ground war on the heels of Afghanistan and Iraq. "We must ... ask ourselves if we can truly `vet' these rebel groups beyond their known affiliations, and ensure we are not arming the next extremist threat to the region and the world," said Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind.

The same question came up at the Senate hearing, and Hagel said the U.S. will monitor closely to ensure that weapons don't fall into the wrong hands. "We have come a long way" in our ability to vet the moderate opposition, and the U.S. has learned a lot as it has funneled non-lethal aid to the rebels, Dempsey said.

House Republicans said they worried that Obama was responding tepidly to the current threat by terrorists who have overrun large sections of Iraq and Syria and beheaded two American journalists. "If it's important enough to fight, it's important enough to win," said Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., one of the first lawmakers to address the subject in several hours of scheduled debate.

A vote was expected in the House on Wednesday, and in the Senate within days. In the Senate, Republican leader Mitch McConnell announced he would support the measure and Democratic leader Harry Reid predicted bipartisan approval. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said she also supports the legislation. The timetable was remarkably rapid by congressional standards, the result of a strong desire by lawmakers in both parties to adjourn quickly and return home to campaign for re-election.

Woman in wildfire's path lost almost everything

AP

Kate Stonecypher, 22, walks through the burned remains of her home, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, that was destroyed by the Boles Fire, in Weed, Calif.

WEED, Calif. (AP)—Kate Stonecypher awoke Monday and thought about wearing boots to work but decided on sneakers instead.

A day later, those sneakers are among her only possessions—along with a pair of jeans and a T-shirt. Nearly everything else she owned was consumed by a fast-moving wildfire that destroyed her house, along with 100 other structures in the small Northern California timber town of Weed.

Her losses mirrored those of dozens of other families who returned Tuesday to find their homes and cherished belongings reduced to ash and scorched metal.

"It's hard to deal with all at once, when you come here and see all this charred black" stuff, she said, peering through a burned outer wall. "In my head, I still see my couch and the living room floor. I just posted pictures of my girls just the other day playing blocks on the floor and watching 'Frozen.'"

Stonecypher grew up in Weed, where her parents ran a bakery. After high school, she moved to nearby Mount Shasta City, but a year ago came back, living in a house next to her parents. It backs up to the railroad tracks that run by the Roseburg Forest Products mill, across the street from Holy Family Catholic Church, which also burned to the ground.

On Monday, she was at work at an auto-parts store in Mount Shasta City when she heard about the fire that swept across a hillside on the southeastern side of town. It was windy that morning, and she had hoped the wind would bring some rain to ease the drought that has left forests all over California critically dry.

When she tried to go home Monday night, she was stopped by police while firefighters still fought the blaze.

On Tuesday, she walked through the devastation alone, taking pictures with her pink smartphone of the high school baseball field and other landmarks. She worked her way to her parents' house, which was still standing. A wooden bear sculpture survived. Her mom's dog, Apollonia, a black great dane, was glad to see her. So were the rabbits.

At her house, all that remained of three motorcycles, a piano and a chain saw were pieces of charred metal in the remnants of the garage. Her estranged husband's fixer-upper Trans Am was burned in the driveway, but Stonecypher said he got the rest of his stuff out because the two had separated.

Opening the dryer, there were some clothes inside that survived. Some of her 4-year-old daughter Autumn's clothes were intact in a closet. The quilt her mom had made for her 9-month old, Elise, looked burned out. Stonecypher was afraid to look in the blackened fridge, which had been filled with meat from a trip to the grocery store.

For now, Stonecypher and her two young daughters are staying at a friend's house in Mount Shasta City.

"When you're here, it's not even real to you. Then it sets in later," she said. "I hope I find something of what was in my bedroom besides just burned charcoal."

Hunt is on for survivalist charged in trooper killing

BLOOMING GROVE, Pa. (AP)—Hundreds of law enforcement officers fanned out across the dense northeastern Pennsylvania woods Tuesday in the hunt for a heavily armed survivalist suspected of ambushing two troopers as part of a deadly vendetta against police.

Frein

Eric Matthew Frein, 31, of Canadensis, is "extremely dangerous" and residents in the area should be alert and cautious, State Police Commissioner Frank Noonan said at a news conference in which he revealed the suspect's name.

"He has made statements about wanting to kill law enforcement officers and also to commit mass acts of murder," Noonan said. "What his reasons are, we don't know. But he has very strong feelings about law enforcement and seems to be very angry with a lot of things that go on in our society."

Frein was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder, homicide of a law enforcement officer and other offenses. About 200 law enforcement officials were combing the rural area of northeastern Pennsylvania marked by dense forest, but "we have no idea where he is," Noonan said.

Police found a U.S. Army manual called "Sniper Training and Employment" in the suspect's bedroom at his parents' house, and his father, a retired Army major, told authorities that his son is an excellent marksman who "doesn't miss," according to a police affidavit released Tuesday.

The gunman killed Cpl. Bryon Dickson, 38, and critically wounded Trooper Alex Douglass outside the remote post in the Pocono Mountains during a Friday night shift change, then slipped away.

Authorities zeroed in on Frein after a resident who was walking his dog in a wooded area two miles from the barracks Monday spotted a 2001 Jeep partly submerged in a pond and called 911. Police found shell casings inside the vehicle that matched those found at the shooting scene, Noonan said.

Investigators also found Frein's driver's license, Social Security card, a Pennsylvania Game Commission range permit, camouflage face paint, a black hooded sweatshirt, two empty rifle cases, military gear and information about foreign embassies, according to court documents.

Frein has held anti-law enforcement views for many years and has expressed them both online and to people who knew him, Lt. Col. George Bivens said.

Frein's father, Michael Frein, who spent 28 years in the Army, told police that two weapons were missing from the home—an AK-47 and a .308 rifle with a scope, according to the police affidavit.

Two state police troopers armed with rifles stood in the driveway of the home, a well-kept two-story in a private community, and several cars were parked there Tuesday afternoon.

Asia

Lava flows from Philippine volcano; thousands flee

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' most active volcano has sent more huge lava fragments rolling down its slopes in an ongoing gentle eruption that has prompted authorities to evacuate thousands of villagers, officials said Wednesday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has warned that a "hazardous eruption" of Mount Mayon, located in the eastern Philippines, is possible within weeks.

Increased restiveness was recorded overnight, including 270 incidents of lava fragments and super-hot boulders rolling down from Mayon's crater—nearly four times the number recorded the previous day. Some reached the upper portion of a gully on the volcano's southeastern side, indicating that the lava dome has breached that side of the crater. The number of low-frequency volcanic earthquakes also increased.

Molten lava has accumulated at the top of the 2,460-meter (8,070-foot) volcano's crater, creating a glow in the night sky that sparked both awe and fear among spectators.

"It's already erupting, but not explosive," said Renato Solidum, who heads the government's volcano monitoring agency. "Currently, the activity is just lava coming down. If there is an explosion, all sides of the volcano are threatened."

Volcanologist Ed Laguerta said he saw huge glowing lava fragments and super-hot boulders rolling down from Mayon's crater late Tuesday from as far as 12 kilometers (7 miles) away.

"They are big because they can be seen from afar, and they splinter, so they could be car-sized," he added.

Mount Mayon, a popular tourist site known for its near-perfect cone, lies in coconut-producing Albay province, about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila.

The provincial disaster operations center reported Wednesday that nearly 24,000 people from villages within an 8-kilometer (5-mile) radius from the crater had been evacuated.

Mayor Herbie Aguas said his farming town of Santo Domingo, among the closest to the volcano, has a frightening legacy from Mayon. The volcano nearly wiped out the municipality's entire population in an 1897 eruption with pyroclastic flows—superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, vaporizing everything in their path.

"We are praying that it would not be the worst-case scenario," Aguas said, adding that nearly 4,000 of the 40,000 residents in his town who live within a government-declared danger zone had started to evacuate to safer areas.

The volcano has erupted 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently, endangering thousands of poor villagers who insist on living or farming in the danger zone.

Villagers living near the volcano have erected huge white crosses at the entrance of their neighborhoods, hoping they will protect them from harm.

On May 7, 2013, the volcano suddenly spewed ash, killing five climbers, including three Germans, who had ventured near the summit despite warnings of possible danger.

Thai police search for clues after two Britons are slain

BANGKOK (AP)—Police on a scenic Thai resort island searched hotels and workers' residences Tuesday looking for clues into the slayings of two British tourists whose nearly naked, battered bodies were found on a beach a day earlier.

More than 70 police officers were deployed to Koh Tao, a popular diving destination in the Gulf of Thailand, as the country's leaders called for a swift investigation into the brutal killings that were a new blow to Thailand's tourism industry.

"This should not have happened in Thailand. It will affect our image in the eyes of international countries," said Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha.

He also urged the media to warn tourists about travel safety in Thailand.

"In their countries, (foreigners) can travel wherever they want, so they thought it is safe, but in our country, there are still problems. There are different types of people, so they have to be careful," Prayuth told reporters. "Those related must warn them and this incident has to be investigated because Thai people won't tolerate this."

Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said police were working "to make an arrest as soon as possible."

The bodies of Hannah Witheridge, 23, and David Miller, 24, were discovered Monday morning in a rocky alcove along the shore close to the hotel where they were staying.

Both had deep wounds and gashes to the head and face that police believe were inflicted by a bloodied hoe found near the bodies.

The pair traveled to Koh Tao with friends and met each other on the island while staying in neighboring rooms at Ocean View Bungalows, said police Maj. Gen. Kiattipong Khawsamang.

China rig finds gas after Vietnam sea standoff

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese exploration rig at the center of a tense maritime standoff with Vietnam earlier this year has made its first deep sea gas discovery in the politically volatile South China Sea, state media announced Tuesday.

The discovery by China National Offshore Oil Corp. was made about a month after its rig withdrew in July from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone to far less-contested waters closer to China.

The find by CNOOC's two-year-old, $1 billion deep sea rig is about 150 kilometers south of China's southernmost island of Hainan. It's unclear whether the discovery will become commercially viable, but the announcement represents a significant step in China's ability to seek resources beneath the South China Sea.

Petroleum reserves and fisheries are among the resources at stake in disputes over the sea, which is one of the world's busiest shipping routes and a patchwork of overlapping claims by governments including China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan. China claims virtually all of the South China Sea.

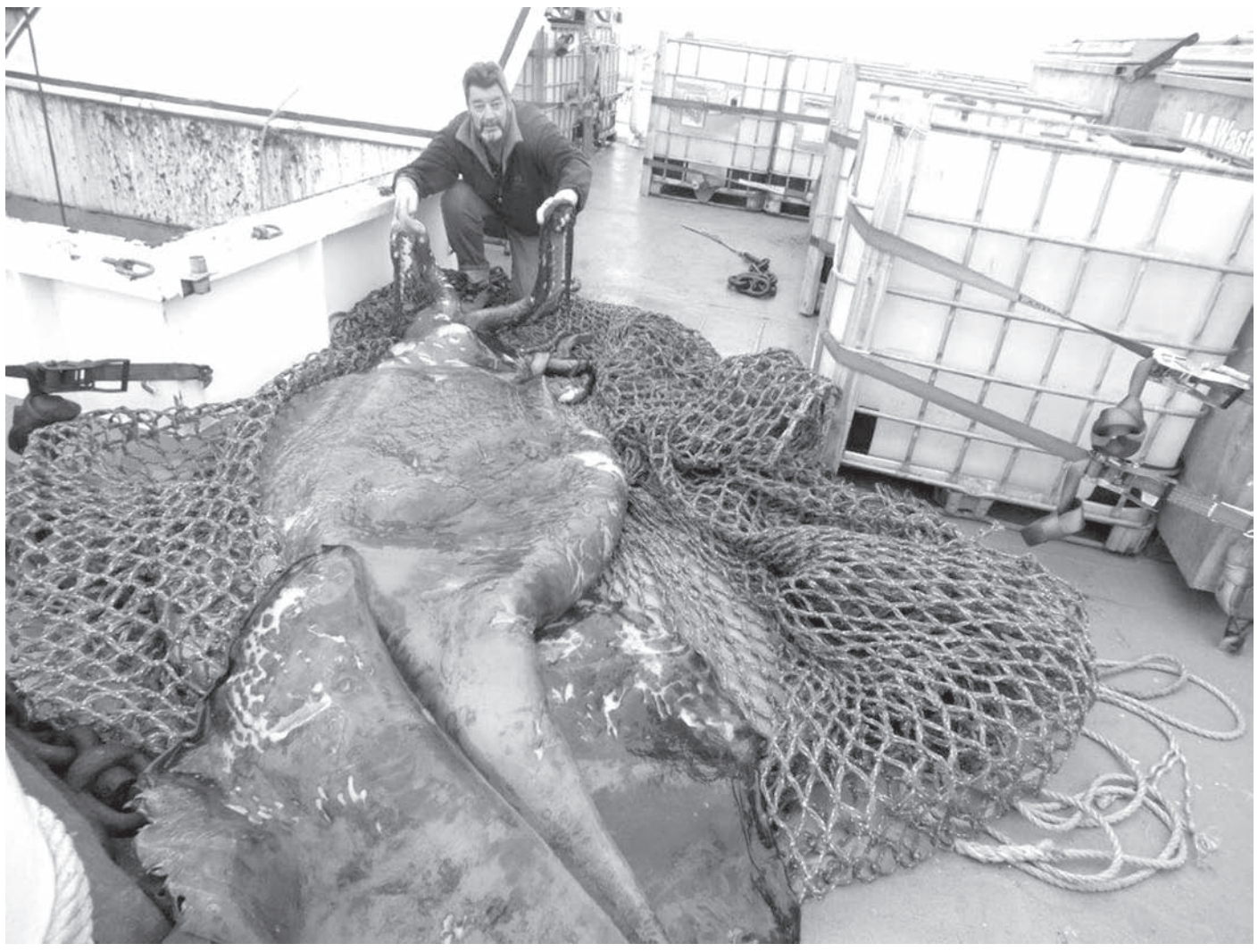
The find was China's first without the participation of foreign partners that in the past have included companies such as Chevron and BP, said Felix Tan, a Beijing-based analyst for energy and resources consultant Wood MacKenzie.

"This is the first discovery they've done all by themselves," Tan said in an interview. CNOOC has rapidly developed a deep-water exploration capability, he said.

"It's a bit premature to talk about the viability" of the field, however, Tan said. "There are a lot of tests to be done."

The gas field was discovered Aug. 18 at a depth of about 1,500 meters, CNOOC said on its website.

Scientists' colossal squid exam a kraken good show



AP

In this Dec. 2013 photo provided by a crew member of the boat San Aspring of New Zealand fishing company Sanford, Capt. John Bennett shows a colossal squid he and and his crew caught on the boat in Antarctica's remote Ross Sea.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—It was a calm morning in Antarctica's remote Ross Sea, during the season when the sun never sets, when Capt. John Bennett and his crew hauled up a creature with tentacles like fire hoses and eyes like dinner plates from a mile below the surface.

A colossal squid: 350 kilograms (770 pounds), as long as a minibus and one of the sea's most elusive species. It had been frozen for eight months until Tuesday, when scientists in New Zealand got a long-anticipated chance to thaw out the animal and inspect it—once they used a forklift to maneuver it into a tank.

Huge squid sometimes inhabit the world of fiction and imagination, but have rarely been seen in daylight. It's possible that ancient sightings of the species gave rise to tales of the kraken, or giant sea-monster squid, said Kat Bolstad, a squid scientist from the Auckland University of Technology led the team examining the creature.

She described this rare specimen as "very big, very beautiful."

The squid is a female, and its eight arms are each well over a meter (3.3 feet) long. Its two tentacles would have been perhaps double that length if they had not been damaged.

"This is essentially an intact specimen, which is almost an unparalleled opportunity for us to examine," Bolstad said. "This is a spectacular opportunity."

Many people around the world agreed: About 142,000 people from 180 countries watched streaming footage of the squid examination on the Internet.

Remarkably, Bennett and his crew on the San Aspiring toothfish boat have caught two giant squid. Their first, hauled in seven years ago, is on display in New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa.

Bennett said there was so much excitement about his previous catch, he thought he had better save the latest one for research.

"It was partly alive, it was still hanging onto the fish," Bennett recalls. "Just a big bulk in the water. They're huge, and the mantle's all filled with water. It's quite an awesome sight."

Susan Waugh, a senior curator at Te Papa, said scientists hope to find out more about where the creature fits in the food chain, how much genetic variation there is among different squid types, and basic facts about how the colossal squid lives and dies.

World

UN: Nearly $1 billion needed now to stop Ebola

GENEVA (AP)—The number of Ebola cases could start doubling every three weeks in West Africa, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, warning that the outbreak will cost nearly $1 billion to contain so it does not turn into a "human catastrophe."

Even as President Barack Obama is ordering the deployment of 3,000 U.S. military personnel to help provide aid in the region, Doctors Without Borders said the global response to Ebola has been far short of what is needed.

"The response to Ebola continues to fall dangerously behind," Dr. Joanne Liu, president of the medical charity, told a U.N. special briefing on Ebola in Geneva. "The window of opportunity to contain this outbreak is closing. We need more countries to stand up, we need greater deployment, and we need it now."

Dr. Bruce Aylward, WHO's assistant director-general, said Tuesday that "this health crisis we face is unparalleled in modern times."

The numbers are staggering: At least 2,400 deaths have been blamed on the outbreak, which has touched Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal since it was first recognized in March.

Half of the nearly 5,000 cases occurred in the last three weeks, and officials said Tuesday that it was not unthinkable that 20,000 could become infected before the outbreak is over.

"It's a potential threat to global security if these countries break down," Obama said, speaking of the hardest-hit countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea

"If the outbreak is not stopped now, we could be looking at hundreds of thousands of people affected, with profound economic, political and security implications for all of us," he said after outlining new steps being taken by the U.S. to contain the outbreak.

In addition to the troop deployment, the heightened U.S. role in West Africa will include erecting new treatment and isolation facilities, training health care workers and boosting communications and transportation support, U.S. officials said in Washington.

Hundreds more international health workers will likely be required. Some 3.3 million hazard suits will be needed in the next six months to protect those caretakers from the virus, which is spread by contact with bodily fluids such as blood, urine or diarrhea. Some $23.8 million alone will pay burial teams and buy body bags, since the bodies of Ebola victims are highly infectious.

In a report released Tuesday, WHO said all of this and more will cost $987.8 million. That's 10 times what the organization estimated the outbreak would cost at the beginning of August.

"We risk a humanitarian catastrophe if we do not see rapid action to scale up, not just the Ebola response but also the provision of essential services and the support platform to put that in place," Aylward said.

Recent weeks have seen a flurry of promises of aid.

In addition to the U.S. forces, the U.N. health agency said China has promised to send a 59-person mobile laboratory team to Sierra Leone that includes lab experts, epidemiologists, doctors and nurses. Britain is planning to build and operate an Ebola clinic in Sierra Leone, and Cuba has promised to send the country more than 160 health workers.

AP

Health workers in protective gear move the body of a person that they suspect dyed form the Ebola virus in Monrovia, Liberia, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014.

Ukraine lawmakers ratify landmark deal with Europe

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine moved to resolve months of crisis Tuesday by strengthening ties to Europe and loosening some controls over the country's rebellious eastern regions where it has been fighting Russian-backed separatists.

The actions by lawmakers began to flesh out the emerging picture of a new Ukraine, where a determined pivot toward Europe has come at great cost: concessions to Russia and a war with rebels that killed more than 3,000 people and pushed the West's relations with Moscow to Cold War-era lows.

The measure deepening the economic and political ties with Europe was the issue that sparked the crisis last fall, when then-President Viktor Yanukovych's decision to shelve the deal in favor of closer ties with Russia sparked protests by hundreds of thousands. Those demonstrations eventually drove him from power in February and led to the annexation of Crimea by Moscow and the rebellion in the east, where a shaky ceasefire began Sept. 5.

The deal lowers trade tariffs between Europe and Ukraine, requires Ukrainian goods to meet European regulatory standards and forces the Kiev government to undertake major political and economic reforms.

After parliament ratified the measure, lawmakers leapt to their feet to applaud and sing the Ukrainian national anthem. A live broadcast of the session was beamed to the European parliament.

President Petro Poroshenko called the vote a "first but very decisive step" toward bringing Ukraine fully into the European Union.

He said the protesters who died in clashes with riot police in Kiev and the government troops killed by rebels in the east "have died not only for their motherland. They gave up their lives for us to take a dignified place among the European family."

67 South Africans dead in Nigeria building collapse

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—The death toll in the collapse of a building in Nigeria last week rose on Tuesday when the South African president said 67 South Africans died and dozens were injured in the accident.

Separately, a Nigerian official said 63 bodies had been recovered at the site of the disaster in the city of Lagos, but it was not immediately clear whether the bodies were those of the South Africans cited by President Jacob Zuma.

"This is a particularly difficult time for South Africa," Zuma said in a statement. "Not in the recent history of our country have we had this large number of our people die in one incident outside the country."

The fallen multistory building served as a shopping mall and guesthouse at the sprawling campus of televangelist T.B. Joshua's Synagogue, Church of All Nations, on the outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital.

"We rescued a woman, alive, around 2 a.m. this morning," said Ibrahim Farinloye of the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency. "We found her under the rubble. She walked away with only a little dislocation on her hand. She is very, very lucky."

Rescue workers had recovered 63 bodies and rescued 131 survivors, Farinloye said. More than 1,000 rescuers were at the scene, he said of the pancaked building that was destroyed in clouds of dust and debris on Friday.

The church has attracted people from around the world to experience the evangelical Joshua's preaching, prophecies and faith healing and to get his blessed water that some say has miraculous powers.

South Africa's government said its diplomats were at the scene since at least five South African church tour groups were there at the time.

In Johannesburg, a man called into Talk Radio 702 to complain that a family member who had gone to the church was missing and that they were unable to get any information from the church or Nigerian government officials. South Africa has set up a hotline for concerned family members.

Belgium grants jailed rapist, murderer euthanasia

BRUSSELS (AP)—A Belgian man convicted of murder and rape is being put to death. Yet the country doesn't have the death penalty. Confused? Authorities have granted a request for assisted suicide by the man, who says he's a menace to society and can't live knowing that.

Even in Belgium, which has one of the broadest euthanasia laws in the world, the decision is raising eyebrows, with some saying it's proof of a failing justice and health system.

Belgium's justice minister approved Frank Van Den Bleeken's transfer to a hospital for euthanasia late Monday after doctors agreed his mental condition was incurable, making him the first detainee in Belgium to be put to death for psychiatric reasons.

Van Den Bleeken, who was found guilty of murder and rape in several cases, has been locked up for almost 30 years. He wishes to die because he has no viable treatment options left and cannot control his sexual urges, his lawyer said Tuesday.

"He has clearly said that he didn't want to leave prison because he didn't want to risk creating further victims," Jos Vander Velpen said. Seeing himself as a danger to society, he can "no longer live like that," the lawyer added.

He declined to elaborate on his client's psychiatric condition or to discuss when the medically-assisted suicide would take place, citing his client's right to privacy.

The sisters of one of Van Den Bleeken's victims, a woman he raped and killed while being temporarily out of prison in 1989, seemed appalled by the decision.

"Let him rot in his cell," the sisters, referred to as only Annie and Liliane, were quoted by Dutch daily Algemeen Dagblad as saying.

"All those commissions, doctors and experts concerned about the well-being of the murderer of our sister. Nobody has ever shown us that much attention," they said.

AP

Convict Frank Van Den Bleeken appears in court in Brussels, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2013.

Environment

Yosemite solving its bear problem by educating the animals—and visitors

By PAUL ROGERS
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

MCT

A black bear cub watches its mother from a tree in Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park on Aug. 27, 2014.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif.—It wasn't that long ago that a trip to see Yosemite's spectacular granite cliffs and splendid waterfalls was a descent into bear mayhem.

In 1997, black bears broke into more than 600 cars in the park, searching for human food as they tore open the doors of Toyotas and Hondas, smashing minivan windows with their paws. The ursine marauders wandered into tents, overturned garbage cans and, on rare occasions, injured tourists.

"You'd drive your car to the park and then it got destroyed because you left a candy bar in the door," said Mike Tollefson, a former Yosemite superintendent.

But today, in one of Yosemite's most remarkable wildlife success stories, the bears are behaving better. Reports of bears damaging property or injuring people in the park have fallen 92 percent—from 1,584 in 1998 to 120 last year. And the number of bears that park officials have had to kill because they pose safety problems has fallen from about 10 a year in the 1990s to one or two a year now.

Biologists say the long, slow turnaround came from an unlikely strategy—training the bears but, more importantly, training people.

"The numbers are down, and that's awesome," said Ryan Leahy, a Yosemite wildlife biologist and bear expert. "More and more people are doing what they are supposed to do. But it only takes one slipup to cost a bear's life. Each person can have a huge impact."

Yosemite has between 300 and 500 black bears. Thousands more live in the rest of California and other Western states.

There has never been a recorded incident of a black bear killing a person in Yosemite, or anywhere in California.

Grizzly bears, their larger and fiercer cousins, do occasionally kill people. But grizzlies, despite being immortalized on California's state flag, have been gone from the Golden State since the last one was shot in Tulare County in 1922. They are now found in Canada, Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

In Yosemite, the relationship between people and bears has changed dramatically. From 1923 to 1971, rangers regularly left food out for bears so tourists could take pictures. Park visitors hand-fed bears until the 1930s and, until 1972, there were open garbage dumps that provided bears massive amounts of easy food—and made them seem more like circus attractions than wild animals.

Black bears became a growing problem in Yosemite during the 1980s and 1990s, when the number of park visitors increased to 4 million a year.

"Have you ever been in a vehicle or house that a bear has been in it? It's not pretty," Tollefson said. "They just don't poop in the woods. The big ones weigh 400 pounds. They can run as fast as a horse, and they're strong."

The animals made national news for their brazen behavior, and park officials launched a new campaign that they say helped solve the problem in four ways.

First, using a 1999 grant from Congress for $500,000 a year, they expanded the number of rangers, biologists and volunteers working on bear issues from two to about 20 now.

The park required all campers to store food in steel, bear-proof lockers. Today, there are roughly 4,000 such lockers around Yosemite—from Curry Village to White Wolf to the Tuolumne Meadows camping areas. The money to install about half of those lockers came from the Yosemite Conservancy, a San Francisco nonprofit group that has spent $2.1 million to solve the park's bear issues over the past quarter-century.

Next, the park launched a massive public education campaign. Campers are now required to sign forms saying they understand it is illegal to feed bears or store food—even toothpaste, deodorant or other scented toiletries—overnight in vehicles. Videos touting bear-safe camping tips play in visitor's centers. Rangers patrol campsites every night, giving warnings and issuing citations of $125 for repeated flouting of the bear rules.

"The rangers are aggressive with folks," said Tollefson, now president of the Yosemite Conservancy.

Third, the park in 2007 required everyone going on overnight backpacking trips in Yosemite's remote wilderness areas to rent a bear canister, an impenetrable cylinder in which to store food. "People were hanging food on ropes in trees," Tollefson said, "but mother bears taught their cubs how to climb up and get it."

Finally, park officials went high-tech. They began trapping problem bears, fitting them with radio collars and monitoring their whereabouts. A new $70,000 program this year is introducing GPS collars, which are even more precise.

When a bear comes near a campsite, wildlife biologists will chase it, yelling and occasionally shooting a small bean bag or clear ball filled with mineral oil from a paintball gun. The idea, called "negative conditioning," is designed to teach bears that coming near humans and trying to eat human food instead of their usual diet of acorns, grass and berries have unpleasant consequences.

"We are trying to teach them that people should be feared," Leahy said. "We aren't going to chase a bear foraging in a meadow, but if it's in a parking lot, we're going to show the bear, 'Hey, we need to keep you out of there.' "

Study: Leaky wells, not fracking, taint water

WASHINGTON (AP)—The drilling procedure called fracking didn't cause much-publicized cases of tainted groundwater in areas of the states of Pennsylvania and Texas, a new study finds. Instead, it blames the contamination on problems in pipes and seals in natural gas wells.

After looking at dozens of cases of suspected contamination, the scientists focused on eight hydraulically fractured wells in those states, where they chemically linked the tainted water to the gas wells. They then used chemical analysis to figure out when in the process of gas extraction methane leaked into groundwater.

"We found the evidence suggested that fracking was not to blame, that it was actually a well integrity issue," said Ohio State University geochemist Thomas Darrah, lead author of the study. He said those results are good news because that type of contamination problem is easier to fix and is more preventable.

The work was released Monday by The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In fracking, highly pressurized chemicals and water are pumped deep underground to break shale and release natural gas for harvesting.

The fracking process has become highly charged. It started a boom of natural gas drilling and with it, an initial surge of reports of water contamination nearby. People started pointing fingers at the fracking process, thinking that the fracturing allowed methane to travel up, outside the pipes, into water supplies.

In at least two cases around one well in Texas, scientists saw people's homes have their water supplies go from clean to contaminated during the year of study, with methane levels jumping ten-fold, said Stanford University environmental sciences professor Rob Jackson, co-author of the study. Methane while not particularly toxic is explosive and a potent greenhouse gas.

"I don't think homeowners care what step in the process the water contamination comes," Jackson said. "They just care that their lives have changed because drilling has moved next door."

The scientists reached their conclusions by chemically analyzing methane and other chemicals in the groundwater. That let them link the contamination to particular wells, and then to discover what part of the drilling process was responsible. For example, they studied the precise proportions of methane, helium, neon and argon. Those proportions pointed to leaky pipes and seals, because the results would have been different if the contamination had come from fracking.

Since the fracking boom started in Pennsylvania in 2008, the state has identified 243 cases of private water supply contamination "impacted by oil and gas activities." That is out of more than 20,000 wells drilled there.

Jackson and colleagues have been studying water contamination around natural gas wells for years and for this study they didn't chose a random sample, but aimed at areas that seemed to have most complaints of contamination. And even in those areas, it was only in a minority of dozens of sites that they could they connect the contamination to the natural gas wells, he said. In some cases, the contamination was natural and had no connection to gas wells, Jackson said.

Terry Engelder, a professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University who wasn't part of the study, praised it, saying "focusing on frack fluids at depth is not the real problem."

The problem of leaky wells is one the gas industry has known about for decades, Darrah said. That includes the pipes the gas flow through and the cement that encases the pipes, keeping it from escaping.

It is possible the high pressure of fracking or the bends in unconventional wells could lead to problems with the well's piping, but there's no evidence yet proving that, Jackson said. Another issue could be the hurry drillers are in during a boom, leading to poor quality wells, he said.

Cindy Dunn, president of the environmental group PennFuture, said it isn't surprising that the methane leaks problem is more due to poor pipes and cement seals, calling for states to update regulations covering that topic.

Dave Spigelmyer, president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition of drillers, said his industry is working with state officials "to modernize and dramatically strengthen shale development-related regulations."

Cornell University engineering professor Anthony Ingraffea, who wasn't part of the study, praised it, adding that he's worried because "it's impossible to drill and cement a well that will never leak."

"There's still serious and significant harm from what's coming before fracking and what's coming after fracking," Ingraffea said.

Life & Style

2014 MacArthur 'genius grant' winners unveiled

CHICAGO (AP)—A professor whose research is helping a California police department improve its strained relationship with the black community and a lawyer who advocates for victims of domestic abuse are among the 21 winners of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced on Wednesday the 2014 recipients, who will each receive $625,000 to spend any way they like.

The professor and lawyer, part of an eclectic group that also includes scientists, mathematicians, historians, a cartoonist and a composer, are among several recipients whose work involves topics that have dominated the news in the past year.

"I think getting this (grant) speaks to people's sense that this is the kind of work that needs to be done," said recipient Jennifer Eberhardt, a Stanford University social psychologist who has researched racial stereotypes and crime.

Her work prompted the Oakland, California, police department to ask for her help studying racial biases among its officers and how those biases play out on the street—topics that have been debated nationally in the wake of the police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old in Missouri. Eberhardt, who is also studying the use of body cameras by police—another topic of particular interest since Brown's shooting—said, "I hope this will show the work matters, holds value and promotes social change."

The justice system is also at the heart of Sarah Deer's work as a legal scholar and advocate for Native American women living on reservations, who suffer higher-than-average rates of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Deer, a Native American who teaches law in Minnesota, met with women who simply stopped reporting such attacks because their tribal governments had been stripped of the authority to investigate and because federal authorities were often unwilling to do so, she said. The foundation pointed to her instrumental role in reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act by Congress in 2013 that restored some of those abilities to tribes.

"For the first time since 1978 ... tribes (can) prosecute non-Indians who have committed acts of sexual assault and domestic violence on reservations," she said.

Like Deer, fellow recipient Jonathan Rapping has worked to improve the lives of others.

A former public defender, Rapping founded Gideon's Promise after seeing a legal system that he said valued speed over quality representation of the indigent. The organization trains, mentors and assist public defenders to help them withstand the intense pressure that can come with massive caseloads.

Today, the program that began in 2007 for 16 attorneys in two offices in Georgia and Louisiana has more than 300 participants in 15 states.

The foundation recognized Khaled Mattawa, an associate professor at the University of Michigan, for his poetry and translations of Arab contemporary poets.

Mattawa, who said he started translating the poetry as way to teach himself to write poetry, said the work can connect people from different cultures. "The poets are bearing witness not only to the humanity of their own people but of a shared humanity," he said.

The awards, given annually since 1981, are doled out over a five-year period. This year's class brings the number of recipients to more than 900. Shrouded in secrecy, the selection process doesn't involve applications. Instead, anonymous groups make nominations and recommendations to the foundation's board of directors.

Most winners are not widely known outside their fields, but the list has over the years included such writers as Susan Sontag and Karen Russell and filmmaker John Sayles.

Leonardo DiCaprio named UN Messenger of Peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio's movie roles have made him an international star, but his long and little-known commitment to preserving the global environment has led to his new role—as a U.N. Messenger of Peace.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Tuesday that the 39-year-old American actor will join 11 other prominent world figures who advocate on behalf of the U.N. as Messengers of Peace including Stevie Wonder, Michael Douglas, George Clooney, Brazilian author Paulo Coelho, primatologist Jane Goodall and conductor Daniel Barenboim.

Ban told a news conference that the Dicaprio "is not just one of the world's leading actors" but he has "a longstanding commitment to environmental causes."

He said DiCaprio will focus his U.N. role on climate change issues.

"His global stardom is the perfect match for this global challenge," the secretary-general told a news conference.

Ban said DiCaprio's first act as a Messenger of Peace will be to address the climate summit he is holding next Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, which 120 world leaders are expected to attend. Ban said the aim is to promote commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions and pave the way for a global climate agreement in 2015.

AP

In this Dec. 15, 2013 file photo, American actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses for a portrait, in New York.

DiCaprio established a foundation in 1998 with a mission to promote the Earth's last wild places and build a more harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world. According to the U.N., the foundation through grants, media projects and public campaigns and appearances by DiCaprio, has brought attention and funds to three areas—protecting biodiversity, conservation of oceans and forests, and climate change.

DiCaprio said in a statement that he is honored to be a Messenger of Peace and support the secretary-general "in his efforts to address one of the most important issues we face as a global community."

"I feel a moral obligation to speak out at this key moment in human history—it is a moment for action," he said. "How we respond to the climate crisis in the coming years will likely determine the fate of humanity and our planet."

DiCaprio gained international fame for his role in "Titanic" and has been nominated for five Academy Awards, including for "Aviator" and "The Wolf of Wall Street." He won Golden Globes for his performance in "Aviator" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

CBS: Rihanna out of NFL telecast

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS and Rihanna are splitting up, more fallout from the Ray Rice domestic violence incident and the turmoil it has caused for the NFL.

The network said Tuesday it was permanently editing a song featuring Rihanna's voice out of its Thursday night NFL telecasts—after the singer issued a profane tweet about it.

A portion of Jay-Z's "Run This Town" featuring Rihanna was cut from last Thursday's Baltimore Ravens vs. Pittsburgh Steelers game because CBS was covering the controversy over Ravens running back Rice's assault of his then-fiancee. CBS planned to use the song Thursday and for the rest of the season, but Rihanna tweeted, "CBS you pulled my song last week, now you wanna slide it back in this Thursday? ... Y'all are sad for penalizing me for this." She added an expletive.

Rihanna

CBS issued a statement saying that it was "moving in a different direction" with different theme music.

Meanwhile, Jay-Z's Roc Nation Company, which manages Rihanna and others, said that it had made the decision not to grant the song's usage. Roc Nation said it felt CBS misled the public when it announced the song's use for its telecasts, giving the impression Rihanna recorded specific music for the project. The company said it never saw or approved the news release issued by CBS.

The news release, issued Sept. 2, stated: "CBS Sports and NFL Network will open each game of Thursday Night Football in 2014 with Jay-Z's Grammy Award-winning song "Run This Town," featuring megastar Rihanna." It said the song would be paired with a narration by Don Cheadle.

The song was one of a handful of elements CBS cut out of its inaugural Thursday night football telecast. At the time, CBS Sports President Sean McManus said Rihanna's own history as a victim of domestic violence was one part of the decision but not the overriding one. The song was to be featured in all six of the Thursday night games CBS was broadcasting this fall, plus eight more on the NFL network.

A spokesperson for Rihanna had no immediate comment on the CBS decision or her client's tweet.

The decision means a significant loss of weekly exposure for Rihanna's work: more than 10 million people watched the opening of the telecast last Thursday, according to the Nielsen company.

Lawyer: Thicke was exploited in 'Blurred Lines' suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robin Thicke's attorney says the estate of Marvin Gaye exploited the singer's "moment of personal vulnerability" in an attempt to prove that the hit "Blurred Lines" was a ripoff of a Gaye hit.

The estate sued Pharrell Williams and Thicke over the song last year.

In a deposition, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, Thicke says Williams did much of the writing on the Grammy-nominated song and says, "I was just lucky enough to be there when he wrote it."

Thicke also says he was high on a mix of prescription drugs and alcohol during the writing of the song and in interviews following its release.

"In fact, I was quite surprised when I read them back sometimes," he said about the interviews.

Attorney Howard King said lawyers for the Gaye estate are just trying to prop up their lawsuit that says the 2013 international hit was stolen by writers, including Thicke and Williams, and that it ripped off "Got to Give It Up."

"Robin's moment of personal vulnerability is being exploited in the hope of diverting attention from the obvious weakness of their legal claim," King said in an email Monday night from Thicke's publicist.

The Gaye family said through an email from their attorney: "We did not inject Mr. Thicke's issues into this case. Mr. Thicke and his counsel did so in the attempt to avoid his prior admissions regarding 'Got to Give it Up.'"

April depositions by Thicke and Williams in the case were unsealed Monday, revealing a different story than the one the two men were giving the public during interviews last year about the song.

"The record would have happened with or without me," Thicke said in the deposition. "I was just lucky enough to be there when he wrote it."

He also described his daily routine for attorneys.

"Every day I woke up, I'd take a Vicodin to start the day," Thicke said. "And then I'd fill up a water bottle with vodka and drink it before and during my interviews."

Thicke said he began to claim more credit for the song after it became an inescapable hit. He said in the deposition he began to take more credit than he was due in interviews because he felt disappointed that his biggest hit had been written by someone else.

The email from attorney Richard S. Busch said the court ordered that the transcripts be made public.

"Not only does our brief set out in great detail the facts, law and expert musical analysis supporting the claim of infringement of Marvin Gaye's 'Got to Give It Up' by 'Blurred Lines,' but we have also identified numerous statements by both Mr. Williams and Mr. Thicke outside of this case, and under oath in this case, which we believe cannot be reconciled and further support the Gayes' claims," the email said.

Attorney: Patti LaBelle had bodyguard beat cadet

HOUSTON (AP)—An attorney for an ex-West Point cadet told jurors Tuesday that veteran R&B singer Patti LaBelle ordered her bodyguard to beat up the cadet as he waited for a ride home outside a Houston airport terminal, resulting in a brain injury that forced him to drop out of the military academy.

The lawsuit against LaBelle alleges the cadet, Richard King, was waiting for his family to pick him up outside one of the terminals at Bush Intercontinental Airport in March 2011, when LaBelle's bodyguard and two others attacked him. King had just arrived in Houston, his hometown, while on spring break from West Point.

King sued LaBelle; Zuri Edwards, LaBelle's manager and son; Efrem Holmes, her bodyguard; and Norma Harris, her hair dresser.

The trial is expected to last about a week. LaBelle, who was in court Tuesday, was expected to testify.

John Raley, one of King's lawyers, told jurors his client had a blood alcohol level of 0.28, more than three times the legal limit for driving. But Raley said King was not driving and was not a danger to anyone.

AP

Soul singer Patti LaBelle arrives at the federal courthouse for jury selection Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Houston.

Raley said King was minding his own business outside the airport terminal when he was attacked without provocation by the 400-pound Holmes, as well as by Edwards and Harris.

King later dropped out of West Point because of a traumatic brain injury he suffered after hitting his head on a concrete pillar during the attack, Raley said.

"He has been horribly damaged by this assault," he said.

But Geoffrey Bracken, one of LaBelle's attorneys, told jurors King was the aggressor who first punched Edwards. LaBelle's attorneys have said King hurled racial insults at the singer before he attacked her son and that King was told several times to step away from the singer's vehicle after he tried to open a passenger door.

Bracken blamed King's drinking for the incident. He pointed to a large bottle of Jack Daniels he had placed in front of jurors, telling them "this is how much alcohol he had in his system."

"This wouldn't have ever happened if Mr. King had not been drinking," he said.

Bracken also suggested that King's career at West Point was ended not by his injuries but by a previous history of poor academic performance.

The first witness for King, a security expert, testified via a video deposition that Holmes' response as a bodyguard was aggressive and inappropriate. Testimony was to resume Wednesday.

After the incident, Holmes and Harris were charged with misdemeanor assault. The charge against Harris was later dismissed, while Holmes was acquitted in November.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

LaBelle's singing career has spanned more than four decades and includes several hit records and two Grammy Awards.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Netflix gets 'Love' comedy from Judd Apatow

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Netflix says filmmaker Judd Apatow co-created a new series that will take a frank, comic look at modern relationships. Netflix said Tuesday it has made a two-season commitment to the series, titled "Love." It will star Paul Rust and Gillian Jacobs as a couple learning about the ups and downs of intimacy and commitment. Rust joined with Apatow and writer-producer Lesley Arfin to create the series. Apatow's film credits include "Superbad," and he is an executive producer of HBO's "Girls." Jacobs plays the character Britta on "Community." Netflix said the comedy "Love" will debut online with 10 episodes in 2016, followed by a dozen episodes in 2017.

Snowden documentary to premiere at NY festival

NEW YORK (AP)—A documentary about Edward Snowden is a late addition to the New York Film Festival. The Film Society of Lincoln Center announced Tuesday that Laura Poitras' "Citizenfour" will premiere Oct. 10 as part of the annual festival's main slate. Poitras is a journalist and documentarian whom Snowden first contacted about leaking thousands of documents that revealed the National Security Agency's collection of Americans' phone and email records. She shared in the Pulitzer Prize for public service given earlier this year to The Washington Post and The Guardian for the NSA revelations. Poitras was working on a film about national security and privacy in the wake of post-9/11 America when Snowden first contacted her under the name "citizen four" through encrypted emails. When she and reporter Glenn Greenwald met with Snowden, Poitras filmed their interviews.

Experts writing book on Islamic State group

NEW YORK (AP)—Two leading authorities on terrorism, Jessica Stern and J.M. Berger, are collaborating on a book about the Islamic State group. Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Tuesday it will publish "ISIS: The State of Terror" early next year. According to Ecco, the authors will examine the history of the extremist organization and offer suggestions on how to respond. Berger is the author of "Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam" and is a contributor to Foreign Policy magazine. Stern was on the National Security Council staff during the Clinton administration, lectures on terrorism at Harvard University and is author of "Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill."

Jewel releases free song to support public housing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jewel is planning an album for release next fall. But for now, she's giving away her latest song for free.

The once-homeless singer-songwriter wrote "Home to Me" to support the ReThink public housing initiative. Inspired by an online contest that drew hundreds of submissions, Jewel unveiled the track online Tuesday, where it's available as a free download. She also performed it live at The Mint nightclub for an intimate audience of public housing administrators and residents.

"I love that it's a public awareness campaign," she said in an interview before taking the stage. "We're not asking people for money. We're asking them to rethink."

The majority of public-housing residents are children, veterans and the elderly, she said. More than 2 million low-income families and individuals are served by public housing, but ReThink says the need is much greater.

Jewel could have used public housing help when she became homeless at 18. She said her boss at the time withheld her check when she refused to sleep with him. She couldn't pay her rent and lived in her car until it was stolen.

"It was just a very vicious poverty cycle," she said.

She turned to writing and music to lift her spirits. She was performing at a coffee shop when she was discovered. The first song she ever wrote became her first single: "Who Will Save Your Soul?"

"I always crowd-source song inspiration," she said. "It's really about what I see around me."

She's never done it quite as formally as she did with this latest track. ReThink held a contest inviting the public to share poems and essays about what home means to them, and Jewel chose the title of her new song from one of the submitted compositions.

"It's surreal," said Silvia Kearney of Ohio, who wrote the essay called "Home to Me" and sat with her son and daughter in the audience for Jewel's performance. "It's unbelievable to inspire someone like her, so famous and so talented."

The 40-year-old entertainer has been busy since announcing her impending divorce from husband Ty Murray in July. She's at work on a "memoir/self-help book," which she hopes to release alongside more new music. She's already written 30 songs for a new album, which she describes as "a bookend to (1995's) `Pieces of You,' a pretty raw folk album."

Daughter appalled by callous treatment of her dad's ashes

DEAR ABBY: My dad died in April after a brief illness. Before he passed, my stepmother encouraged him to donate his body to science because she is to be buried with her first husband, and she didn't want the expense of burying Dad.

I went to pick up my father's ashes as she requested. When I got there, she invited me into her bedroom to see that she had made a shrine to her first husband, who had died three years before she and Dad were married. The one photo she had of Dad was 2 inches by 3 inches, and was the one from his memorial invitation.

With a broken heart I made my way to the door. Abby, she was married to my dad for 30 years. He supported her, took care of her, and worked to the age of 75 to keep her happy—and that was a task!

As I reached the front door, I remembered what I was there for in the first place—my dad's ashes. They were still in the UPS wrap, in a bench that he kept his shoes and boots in by the door. Seriously, who does that?

GRIEVING DAUGHTER IN NEW YORK

DEAR GRIEVING DAUGHTER: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. Unless he spent the entire 30 years of his marriage sharing his bedroom with the shrine to your stepmother's first husband, inviting you in to see it was beyond insensitive on her part. The only bright side I can see to this is that you're now in possession of your beloved father's ashes, and you will probably never have to see her again.

DEAR ABBY: I am the father of an 8-year-old daughter, "Lindsey." She is my world. Her mom and I split when Lindsey was 2. She has remarried. We are all civil, and things are good.

Lindsey is getting to the age in which sleepovers at friends' houses are happening, which is fine because I know a few of them and their parents. I'm worried about the fathers or older brothers of the ones I don't know. How do you ask or tell an 8-year-old about the dangers of pedophiles without scaring her? This is my biggest fear.

DAD IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DAD: I assume that, as a conscientious parent, you are not sending your little girl off to stay with complete strangers. Make it a point to meet and talk with the parents of the girls who are having the sleepovers. If that's not possible, your ex should do it so you can both be assured that the party will be properly supervised.

You should also make sure your daughter knows that she can talk to you anytime about ANYTHING and you will listen, answer her questions and support her.

I assume that Lindsey's mother has already started the dialogue about the facts of life. Talk to your ex about your concerns and ask what she has discussed with Lindsey about boundaries, inappropriate touching and that Lindsey knows she can come to either of you if anyone makes her uncomfortable. The most effective way to protect a child is to ensure that there is open, comfortable communication on any subject.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

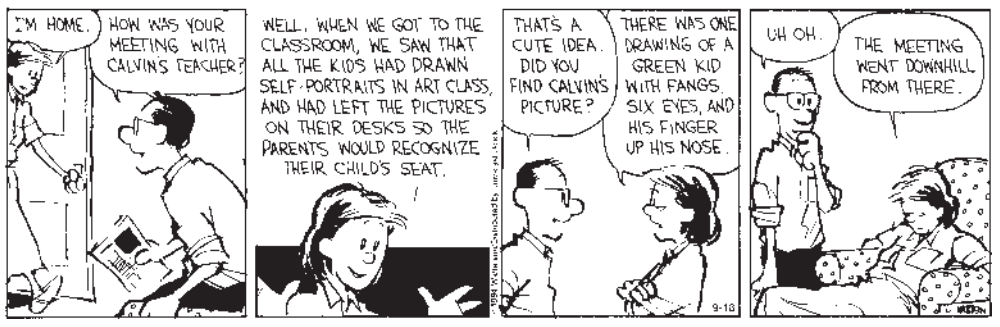
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

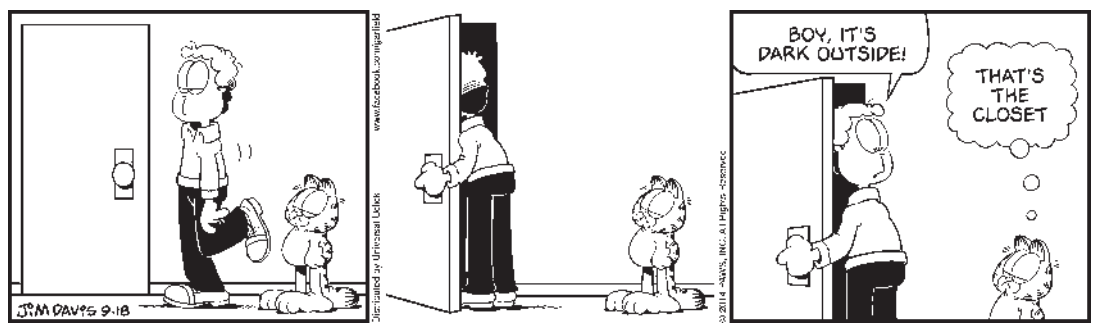
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME. HOW WAS YOUR MEETING WITH CALVIN'S TEACHER?
WELL, WHEN WE GOT TO THE CLASSROOM, WE SAW THAT ALL THE KIDS HAD DRAWN SELF-PORTRAITS IN ART CLASS, AND HAD LEFT THE PICTURES ON THEIR DESKS SO THE PARENTS WOULD RECOGNIZE THEIR CHILD'S SEAT.
THAT'S A CUTE IDEA. DID YOU FIND CALVIN'S PICTURE? THERE WAS ONE DRAWING OF A GREEN KID WITH FANGS, SIX EYES, AND HIS FINGER UP HIS NOSE.
UH OH. THE MEETING WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE.

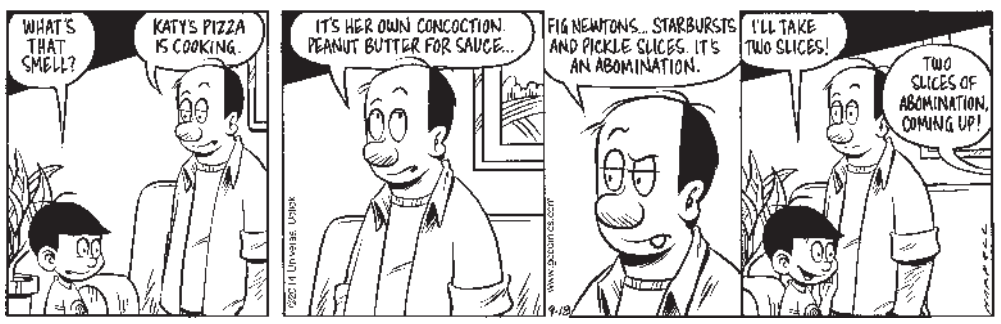
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



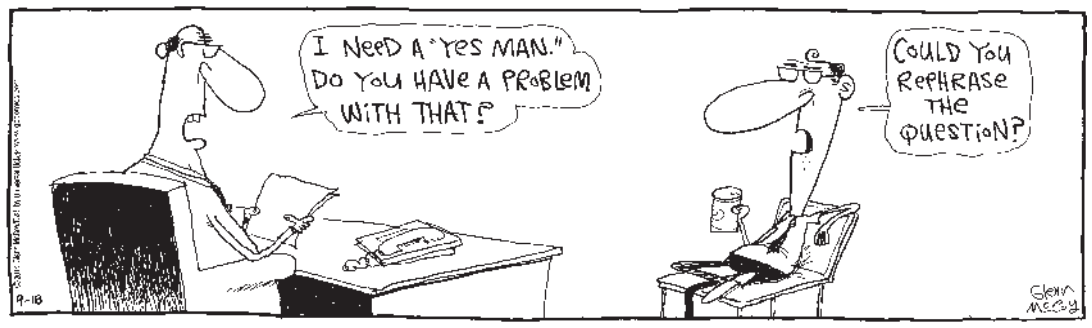
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
KATY'S PIZZA IS COOKING.
IT'S HER OWN CONCOCTION. PEANUT BUTTER FOR SAUCE...
FIG NEWTONS... STARBURSTS AND PICKLE SLICES. IT'S AN ABOMINATION.
I'LL TAKE TWO SLICES!
TWO SLICES OF ABOMINATION, COMING UP!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

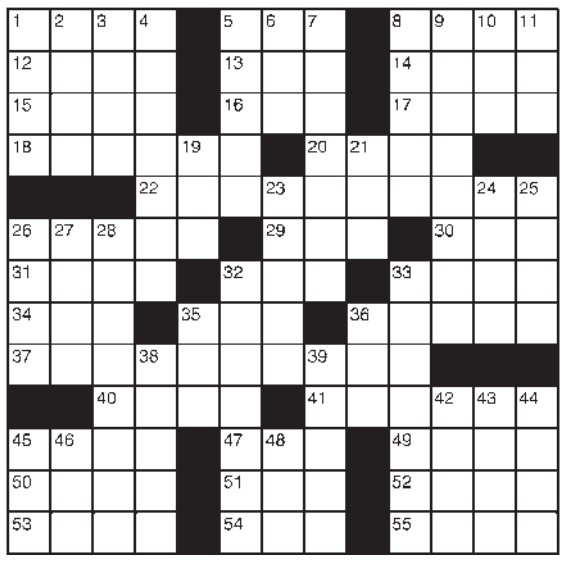
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Burn somewhat
5 Bonfire residue
8 Lecherous look
12 Zero, in tennis
13 Luau side dish
14 Rind
15 Portent
16 Biz letterhead abbr.
17 Tiny bit
18 Mother —, nee Agnes Bojaxhiu
20 Caffeine-laced nut
22 Browse from the street
26 "Speed-the-Plow" playwright
29 Before
30 — out a living
31 Yankee nickname
32 Aviate
33 Expose
34 Hostel
35 Reaction to fireworks
36 Speed demon's nemesis
37 Rewards at a raffle
40 Deposits
41 Go too far
45 Viscous stuff
47 Grecian vessel
49 Barrel component
50 Wan
51 Potential caviar
52 Capri, for one
53 Terrier type
54 Conclusion
55 Prepared to drive

DOWN
1 Coagulate
2 Dorothy's last word
3 State with conviction
4 Ordered more magazines
5 Related to bees
6 Junior
7 Type of tree
8 October stones
9 Succeed
10 Zodiac feline
11 Shade provider
19 Perch
21 Have bills
23 Indian metropolis
24 Gumbo ingredient
25 Juror, in theory
26 Hotel employee
27 Florentine river
28 Popular board game
32 "Absolutely"
33 Single
35 Choose
36 Gun the engine
38 Money of 23-Down
39 Like city areas
42 Got up
43 Bob or Elizabeth of politics
44 Newspaper pg.
45 Navig. aid
46 Erstwhile acorn
48 Director Howard

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Sudeikis, 39; James Marsden, 41; Jada Pinkett Smith, 43; Aisha Tyler, 44.

Happy Birthday: Keep life simple and free from worry and emotional turmoil. Work diligently to keep the peace and to find workable solutions. Getting along will be half the battle, and once you master compromise, you will find it much easier to focus on what's really important to you. Winning isn't what's important this year, but the journey you take to reach your destination is. Your numbers are 2, 6, 14, 21, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do things with lightning speed and you'll grab the attention of someone who can help you advance. Have patience with those unable to keep up with you. Tolerance and your ability to get things done will result in a position of leadership. ✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do as much as you can. You will win if you complete projects that can make your life more comfortable or user-friendly. Set your sites high and do your thing. You will be admired for your accomplishments. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let uncertainty get you down. Focus on whatever needs to be done and implement detail and precision into your game plan. Clear up unfinished business and adapt to any changes that come your way. Time wasted cannot be retrieved. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get moving if you want to keep up with the crowd. An emotional situation will lead to isolation if you ignore the obvious. Listen to complaints and use past experience to avoid misfortune. Pay close attention to detail. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't spend money on something you don't need. Cut your overhead in order to secure your financial future. Being overly generous will not buy friendship or help you eliminate stress. Talk to someone you trust and take their advice. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try something new and you will meet someone interesting. A greater interest in helping your community must not turn into a money pit. Offer your time, not your cash, and you will expand your friendships without depleting your bank account. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get down; get busy. Set reachable goals instead of striving for the impossible. Stay on track and avoid an emotional situation with someone you work or live with. Avoid restrictions by doing everything according to rules and regulations. ✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel for business or pleasure and you will encounter a magical moment with potential to turn into a prosperous venture. Unfamiliar surroundings will spark an idea that will lead you down a path to personal freedom. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't settle for less than what you want. Look for a suitable way to reconfigure the way you do things at home or at work in order to get better results. Building a solid base will lead to a prosperous future. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your brawn to help you get what you want. A battle of intelligence isn't likely to bring you the same satisfaction. You are best to keep your emotions out of the equation and base your actions on need and desire. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money, legal and health matters should be looked at carefully. You can make good positive alterations to the way you earn your living and how you pursue your goals that will help to ease your stress and build your strength. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A partnership will play in your favor. Sign contracts, iron out any little detail that may stand between you and success, and push to get what you want signed, sealed and delivered. Romance will improve your day. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and caring. You are powerful, courageous and kind.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7		8			
	4	1				9	5	
	3	9				2	8	
2				6				1
4				8				3
	2	7				6	3	
	9	6				5	4	
			6		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	8	2	5	9	7	3	4
4	3	7	1	8	6	9	5	2
2	5	9	4	3	7	1	6	8
8	2	4	5	6	1	3	9	7
1	6	3	9	7	4	8	2	5
9	7	5	3	2	8	6	4	1
5	9	2	7	1	3	4	8	6
3	8	1	6	4	2	5	7	9
7	4	6	8	9	5	2	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE Solution: 9 letters

S	T	R	E	L	P	O	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	S
S	E	E	E	C	I	S	D	O	H	C	N	E	R	D
E	K	T	G	S	D	D	U	M	P	I	N	G	E	E
N	C	A	A	N	E	A	F	B	O	D	Y	N	A	E
E	U	W	U	R	E	A	E	A	A	N	E	T	T	F
R	B	F	S	O	F	L	R	H	C	S	E	P	I	L
A	D	N	E	R	T	E	L	C	I	E	L	Y	V	E
W	I	D	O	D	A	I	T	A	H	E	B	Y	E	S
A	I	Z	N	N	V	T	R	E	H	Ⓓ	Ⓛ	Ⓞ	Ⓒ	T
V	E	O	L	E	T	A	S	K	P	C	O	U	O	I
N	V	D	I	I	S	N	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	K
I	A	R	N	R	O	G	I	R	H	E	G	U	O	L
O	R	I	E	F	P	I	L	F	B	R	I	B	E	I
J	B	A	T	H	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	S	A
W	O	H	S	T	N	A	P	I	C	I	T	R	A	P

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, September 25, 2014.

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Warner, Seau among 113 Hall nominees

NEW YORK (AP)—Super Bowl-winning quarterback Kurt Warner and linebacker Junior Seau are among 15 first-year eligible modern-era candidates nominated for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Also nominated for the class of 2015 in their first year of eligibility are receivers Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt, tackle Orlando Pace, and placekicker Jason Elam.

A total of 99 players and 14 coaches comprise the 113 nominees. A modern-era player or coach must be retired at least five consecutive seasons to be eligible.

The selection committee will choose 25 candidates as semifinalists in late November. That list will be reduced to 15 modern-era finalists in early January. The 2015 class will be voted on the day before the Super Bowl.

One senior committee nominee, former Vikings center Mick Tingelhoff, also will be on the ballot.

Between four and eight new members will be selected. Inductions will be in August at Canton, Ohio, site of the Hall of Fame.

Some other familiar names who have been nominated are running back Jerome Bettis, receivers Tim Brown and Marvin Harrison, guard Will Shields, defensive end/linebackers Charles Haley and Kevin Greene, safety John Lynch, and placekicker Morten Andersen. All were finalists in 2014.

Coaches Tony Dungy, a finalist last January, Bill Cowher, Don Coryell and Mike Holmgren also are among the 2015 nominees.

Meanwhile, major sponsors including Anheuser-Busch are adding to the chorus of disapproval over the National Football League's recent scandals, but the companies are stopping short of pulling advertising.

Anheuser-Busch said Tuesday that it has spoken with the NFL about concerns related to recent incidents that are sparking outcry from fans, including an investigation into how long the NFL and its commissioner Roger Goodell knew about a video that shows Baltimore Raven Ray Rice beating his then-fiancee; as well as the Minnesota Vikings' decision to let Adrian Peterson play while he faces an abuse charge for spanking his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch.

McDonald's, Visa and Campbell Soup Co. say they have also voiced similar concerns to the league.

The statements come after Radisson hotels said Monday that it was pulling its sponsorship of the Minnesota Vikings. No other brands have pulled sponsorships from teams or the NFL.

But the statements from sponsors are becoming increasingly strongly worded.

Only last week, several big sponsors like GM and FedEx said they were monitoring the situation or watching it closely. Others like Anheuser-Busch and Procter & Gamble stayed silent.

AP

In this Sunday Dec. 28, 2008 file photo, Arizona Cardinals Kurt Warner throws against the Seattle Seahawks in the first quarter of an NFL football game in Glendale, Ariz. Super Bowl-winning quarterback Kurt Warner and linebacker Junior Seau are among 15 first-year eligible modern-era candidates nominated for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

This week, sponsors are making it clear they have made the NFL aware of their concerns. A-B used the harshest language, saying it was ''disappointed and increasingly concerned.''

The NFL responded to the sponsors' statements late Tuesday with a short statement of its own:

''We understand. We are taking action and there will be much more to come,'' the organization said.

As the NFL and various team executives navigate scandal, much is at stake: The money companies pay each year to be official sponsors -not including advertising and promotions- is worth about $1.07 billion for the league and all of its teams, according to sponsorship consultancy IEG. The NFL is a coveted partner for brands since an average of 17.4 million people tune in during a regular season NFL game, about 65 percent men and 35 percent women, according to Nielsen.

Criticism mounting for Vikings, Adrian Peterson

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Adrian Peterson has been one of the most popular and marketable stars in the NFL, an approachable superstar with an inspirational comeback story that made him an endorser's dream.

Suddenly, it feels like Adrian Peterson won't be a Viking much longer ProFootball Talk on NBC Sports

Now that he is facing a felony charge of child abuse for spanking his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch, the Minnesota running back is in the middle of a firestorm, and several sponsors are starting to distance themselves while the controversy envelops a league in crisis.

In the wake of the Vikings' decision to allow Peterson to play while the legal process plays out in Texas, the Radisson hotel chain has suspended its relationship with the Vikings. Special Olympics Minnesota, Castrol Motor Oil and Mylan Inc. severed ties with Peterson and Nike stores in the Twin Cities have stopped selling merchandise with his name on it.

And Peterson's All Day Foundation, which has been devoted to helping children, put up and took down a series of statements on its website before shutting it down, including one that said it ''will re-engage after Adrian, his family, and staff have reflected on how the current situation impacts the direction for Adrian's philanthropy.''

''It is an awful situation,'' said Gov. Mark Dayton, who spearheaded an effort to secure $477 million in public funding for a stadium that is being built downtown. ''Yes, Mr. Peterson is entitled to due process and should be 'innocent until proven guilty.' However, he is a public figure; and his actions, as described, are a public embarrassment to the Vikings organization and the State of Minnesota. Whipping a child to the extent of visible wounds, as has been alleged, should not be tolerated in our state. Therefore, I believe the team should suspend Mr. Peterson, until the accusations of child abuse have been resolved by the criminal justice system.''

Vikings owners Zygi and Mark Wilf sat Peterson for the 30-7 loss to the New England Patriots on Sunday while they tried to gather more information about the case. After reviewing files, speaking to Peterson, his attorney and authorities, the Wilfs decided to reinstate Peterson and he plans to play this weekend at New Orleans.

Anheuser-Busch said it was ''disappointed and increasingly concerned'' with the negative attention brought to the league by Ray Rice's assault on his wife and Peterson's treatment of his son.

Nike pulled Peterson jerseys from its stores at the Mall of America in Bloomington and in outlet malls in Eagan and Albertville. Nike still sells the jerseys and features Peterson on its website.

Mylan said it was no longer working with Peterson to promote its EpiPen, used to treat allergic reactions. The running back had participated in several promotions to raise awareness for anaphylaxis, which he has dealt with in the past.

''Mylan has ended all activities with Adrian Peterson,'' spokeswoman Julie Knell said. ''We remain committed to supporting those managing potentially life-threatening allergies and will continue our educational efforts to increase anaphylaxis awareness and preparedness.''

U.S. Bank, which is rumored to be in the running for the naming rights to the team's new stadium, said it is ''monitoring the situation closely.''

So is Shaun Hagglund, the owner of Fan HQ in suburban Minneapolis. He said he pulled Peterson apparel from the store's shelves as soon as the charge came down Friday night.

''I'm not making a moral stand or a judgment,'' Hagglund said. ''Just for now, let's see what comes of this and see what stories are true and which ones are not and take it from there.''

Wheaties has pulled the last of the Peterson mentions from its website, but General Mills spokesman Mike Siemienas said that was because of a contractual matter and not related to the child abuse charge. Siemienas said most of the Peterson material was removed months ago as the brand shifted to a new promotion with younger and up-and-coming athletes.

Other sponsors were still standing behind the Vikings and Peterson, including Verizon Wireless.

Union appeals Rice's indefinite suspension

BALTIMORE (AP)—The NFL players' union appealed Ray Rice's indefinite suspension Tuesday night.

Rice was originally handed a two-game suspension in July under the NFL's personal conduct policy after he was charged with assault following a Feb. 15 altercation with his then-fiancee in a casino elevator.

The Baltimore running back had already served the first game of that suspension when, on Sept. 8, a video surfaced showing Rice punching Janay Palmer, now his wife, in that elevator.

Within hours, the Ravens released Rice and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell extended the suspension to indefinite based on the "new evidence."

Goodell and the Ravens say they never saw the video before Sept. 8.

"This action taken by our union is to protect the due process rights of all NFL players," the NFL Players Association said in a statement. "The NFLPA appeal is based on supporting facts that reveal a lack of a fair and impartial process, including the role of the office of the commissioner of the NFL. We have asked that a neutral and jointly selected arbitrator hear this case as the commissioner and his staff will be essential witnesses in the proceeding and thus cannot serve as impartial arbitrators."

The NFLPA said that the collective bargaining agreement requires a hearing date be set within 10 days of the appeal notice. It also said the hearing will require a neutral arbitrator to determine what information was available to the NFL and when it was available.

The union, which had until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday to file the appeal, added that under governing labor law, an employee can't be punished twice for the same action when all of the relevant facts were available to the employer at the time of the first punishment.

The NFL didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The erratic and illogical system of ad hoc punishments is a paltry substitute for the leadership the NFL desperately needs right now," National Organization for Women President Terry O'Neill said in a statement. "Roger Goodell must resign, and his successor must be fully committed to real and lasting change."

Rice can apply for reinstatement when he convinces Goodell that he is "addressing this issue." Rice has been accepted into a diversion program, which upon completion could lead to the assault charge being dropped.

Nationals clinch NL East championship

AP
Washington Nationals teammates run out onto the field to congratulate catcher Wilson Ramos, left, and pitcher Drew Storen (hidden) after a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Atlanta. Washington won 3-0 to clinch the NL East division.

ATLANTA (AP) — The Washington Nationals are again champions of the NL East, wrapping up their second division title in three years against the team that knocked them out of the top spot last season.

Tanner Roark pitched five-hit ball over seven innings, Ian Desmond's two-run homer broke a scoreless tie and the Nationals celebrated another trip to the playoffs with a victory over Atlanta, 3-0.

The clinching victory was especially sweet coming against the Braves, who finished 10 games ahead of the Nationals in 2013. The roles were reserved this season as Washington steadily pulled away down the stretch.

Atlanta (75-76) lost for the 11th time in 14 games, further damaging its hopes of making a third straight playoff appearance as a wild card. The Braves have lost five straight and are under .500 for the first time since losing on opening day.

Roark (14-10) pitched around four leadoff singles by Atlanta, which never got a runner past second base. Tyler Clippard worked a scoreless eighth, and Drew Storen finished for his seventh save.

The Nationals broke through in the sixth off Aaron Harang (11-11).

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 2

In Baltimore, the Baltimore Orioles won their first AL East crown since 1997, using home runs by Steve Pearce and Jimmy Paredes to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-2 Tuesday night.

With their ninth win in 10 games, the Orioles clinched their second playoff appearance in three years following a run of 14 consecutive losing seasons. It was Baltimore's ninth AL East title and only its second since 1983, when the Orioles last won the World Series.

The franchise has enjoyed a rebirth under the guidance of manager Buck Showalter, whose 1,254th victory thrust him past mentor Billy Martin into sole possession of 36th place on the career list.

Cubs 7, Reds 0

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning before giving up Brandon Phillips' one-out double, the only blemish for the Chicago Cubs pitcher in a win over Cincinnati.

Arrieta (9-5) struck out 13 and walked one in his first career complete game. He was five outs from the first no-hitter at Wrigley Field in 42 years when Phillips drove an 0-2 pitch to deep left-center, just beyond the desperate dive of center fielder Matt Szczur on the warning track.

It was the third time this season Arrieta has flirted with a no-hitter.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2, 12 innings

In St. Louis, Carlos Gomez walked, stole second and third and scored the go-ahead run on a bloop hit by rookie Hector Gomez in the 12th inning as Milwaukee ended NL Central-leading St. Louis' three-game winning streak.

Brandon Kintzler (3-3) got the last out in the 11th, and Francisco Rodriguez closed for his 42nd save in 47 chances. The third-place Brewers have won five of six and are four games back of St. Louis, which has a 2 1/2-game lead on Pittsburgh with 11 to go.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 4

In Denver, Corey Dickerson homered, tripled and drove in four runs, Tyler Matzek pitched into the sixth inning by getting out of several tight spots, and Colorado snapped a seven-game skid with a win over the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers had Matzek (6-10) on the ropes, but couldn't produce the timely hit. They stranded 10 runners to drop 1 1-2 games behind Washington for the best record in the National League.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Jake Peavy had another strong outing, Buster Posey homered, and San Francisco gained a game in the NL West race with a victory over Arizona.

The Giants are three games behind first-place Los Angeles with 11 to play. San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak and remained 2 1/2 games ahead of Pittsburgh for the NL's top wild-card spot.

Peavy (6-4), acquired from Boston on July 26, allowed a run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings, striking out four and walking one. In his last five starts, he is 3-0 and has allowed a combined four runs.

White Sox 7, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Kelvin Herrera and Wade Davis both gave up runs for the first time in nearly three months as Kansas City's dominant bullpen was touched up in a loss to the Chicago White Sox.

Davis replaced Herrera (3-3) with two on in the seventh inning and walked Jose Abreu to load the bases for Conor Gillaspie, who cleared them with a triple to right-center that gave Chicago a 7-5 lead.

That ended Herrera's scoreless streak at 30 2-3 innings, dating to June 24.

Pirates 4, Red Sox 0

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton came off the disabled list to gain his first victory since July 2, and Pittsburgh beat Boston for its ninth win in 11 games.

Sidelined since Aug. 16 because of right hip inflammation and a sports hernia, Morton (6-12) allowed four hits in five innings, struck out six and walked two. He had been 0-3 with a 5.09 ERA in his eight previous starts.

Rays 6, Yankees 1

In St. Petersburg, Derek Jeter was hit on the arm by a Steve Geltz pitch in the eighth inning of a loss to Tampa Bay, the fifth time a New York Yankees batter has been hit by a Rays pitcher in the past week.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi came out of the dugout and was ejected after New York's captain was hit.

New York's David Phelps was ejected by plate umpire Rob Drake in the bottom half after throwing a tight pitch to Kevin Kiermaier. Both dugouts and bullpens emptied, but little occurred except for a couple players being restrained by teammates or coaches.

Indians 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Corey Kluber struck out a career-high 14 in seven innings, and Cleveland halted its four-game losing streak by topping Houston.

Kluber (16-9) allowed one run and seven hits to earn his third straight win. His previous high for strikeouts was 13 against the Chicago White Sox on May 4.

Twins 4, Tigers 3

In Minneapolis, Aaron Hicks hit a two-out RBI single in the ninth inning, and Minnesota rallied for a win over AL Central-leading Detroit.

After J.D. Martinez hit a three-run home run to give Detroit a 3-2 lead in the top of the ninth, Trevor Plouffe drew a one-out walk against Joe Nathan (4-4) and was replaced by pinch-runner Doug Bernier.

Bernier scored when center fielder Ezequiel Carrera dived for a line drive off the bat of Kurt Suzuki and missed it, allowing the ball to roll to the wall.

Mets 9, Marlins 1

In New York, Wilmer Flores homered twice and drove in six runs for the second time this year, Ruben Tejada capped a four-run fourth inning with a two-run double, and the New York Mets routed Miami to end a three-game skid.

The 23-year-old Flores hit a three-run shot in the fifth and a two-run drive in the seventh — both off reliever Brad Penny.

He also had an RBI double in the fourth as the Mets scored their most runs at home since they tallied 11 against the Phillies on July 30. Flores is 8 for 15 with three homers and 10 RBIs in his last four games.

Mariners 13, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Mike Zunino's two-run double keyed a four-run fifth inning, and Seattle climbed within a game of the second AL wild-card spot by routing the Los Angeles Angels.

One night after becoming the first team to secure a playoff berth, the Angels lost for only the fourth time in 21 games. Their magic number for clinching the AL West dropped to two because of Oakland's loss to Texas.

The Athletics lead the wild-card race by a game over Kansas City.

Rangers 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Scott Kazmir allowed a two-run homer to Jake Smolinski, and shortstop Jed Lowrie made an error that led to a pair of unearned runs as Oakland lost to last-place Texas.

After strengthening their AL wild-card lead by beating Seattle in the final two games of a weekend series, the A's looked sloppy in the opener of a nine-game homestand and failed in their attempt to win three straight for the first time since Aug. 7-9.

Atlanta mayor: Talked to 6 possible Hawks owners

ATLANTA (AP)— Mayor Kasim Reed said Tuesday he has already talked with six potential buyers of the Atlanta Hawks and expects a sale of the team to move quickly after racially charged comments by owner Bruce Levenson and general manager Danny Ferry.

Flanked by Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins and other city leaders, Reed said the crisis engulfing the NBA team would be solved ''the Atlanta way'' and predicted the franchise would come out stronger in the end.

The Hawks have been under fire since it was revealed Levenson sent an email two years ago theorizing that many suburban whites would not attend NBA games because of the team's African-American fans. He agreed to sale his share of the team, but it also emerged that Ferry had disparaged then-free agent Luol Deng on a conference call with team owners this past summer, saying he ''has a little African in him.''

Reed, who did not identify the prospective buyers, said whoever buys the team would have majority ownership. While Levenson owns 24 percent of the team, his Washington partner Ed Peskowitz has also agreed to sale his share, meaning that 50.1 percent of the team is available, according to the mayor.

For now, the Atlanta-based owners—including Michael Gearon Jr. and Rutherford Seydel (the son-in-law of former owner Ted Turner) —want to keep their shares of the team.

''I have had conversations with no less than six prospective buyers,'' Reed said. ''All six of those prospective buyers will have to go through a process to be vetted by the NBA. That process is going to occur very quickly.''

He said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was lining up an investment bank look into the finances of any potential buyer.

In addition, Reed said the city will likely be willing to offer concessions to any new owner to ensure the Hawks commit to remaining in Atlanta for another 30 years. He said there could be as much as $150 million available after the city sells Turner Field, the current home of the Braves, though the mayor said that process has been held up by the baseball team's refusal to negotiate terms for its departure.

The Braves are planning to move to a new stadium in suburban Cobb County in 2017; in fact, they held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site a few hours before the mayor's news conference. But if there are any delays in completing the stadium, the team has an option in its lease to spend another year at Turner Field.

53 brave 'What The Hell' bike race

JON PEREZ
Riders take it easy in the first lap of the road bike race in the recently concluded "What The Hell" race.

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

A total 53 riders answered the challenge of the recently concluded "What The Hell" bicycle race held, which started and ended across the Marianas Resort & Spa in Marpi.

The one-day race is a prelude to the 2014 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle in December. It will be the eighth edition of the annual event, which is considered to be the toughest race in Micronesia.

All 53 cyclists completed at least one lap with Charlie Sendin, Nap Dizon, female rider Athena Andrews, and 14-year-old Wynn Brillo among the notable riders that took on the race that was divided into three speeds.

Sendin and Dizon finished the five laps in under six hours, while Andrews had four laps in the mountain bike division. Brillo went four laps in under six hours in the road bike category.

Noel Altamirano, John Arceo, Mark Isip, and Edwin Palaganas were the other riders who completed four laps in the mountain bike category.

The mountain bike course took riders from the road across the Marianas Resort then headed toward the Far East Broadcasting Corp. tower, passed Grotto-Autobahn going to Calavera Cave, the radar before turning right at the blue tank that will take them down to Binadu and at the starting line.

The race was divided into three speeds: Ludicrous where you will be challenged to complete four laps in under six hours; Ridiculous, a three-lap leg of under six hours, and the Light Speed with a minimum of two laps.

The $10 on the $20 entry fee went to the Hell of the Marianas prize money pot.

DYS

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one field goal apiece in the third canto, while only three players scored for the Ol'Aces.

DYS kept its balance offense in the fourth period to pad its lead en route to the easy win, while only Jonrey Gilles recorded more than 2 points for the Ol'Aces, who were held to another three-field goal performance in the payoff canto.

Meanwhile, in the U21 game, Jonathan Santos drilled all his 6 points in the fourth period, while Allen Yu canned two crucial free throws in Kagman's close win over the G-Rollers.

The G-Rollers were ahead entering the fourth, 44-41, after Y.J. Nakayama banked a triple at the end of the third canto, but lost the precarious lead as Santos took over in the final canto for the Sparks. Santos stepped up and joined forces with Yu and Jason Lampkin in lifting Kagman to the 3-point win. Lampkin and Yu added 4 points each in the fourth period and finished in twin digits with the latter firing 18 and the former chipping in 16.

Mike Arciaga led the G-Rollers' losing cause with his game-high 21 points, but was held to one field goal and a free throw in the fourth frame. The G-Rollers dropped their opener after making only four field goals in the final quarter.

U21

Kagman Sparks 57 – Yu 18, Lampkin 16, Jo. Santos 6, Malwelbug 4, Je. Santos 3, Muna 3, Igisomar 2, Paulino 1.

G-Rollers 54 – Arciaga 21, Nakayama 15, Malonzo 4, Capuyon 4, Iglesias 3, Babauta 3, Factor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-16, 28-27, 41-44, 57-54.

U18

DYS 68 – Montes 16, Ong 13, Pamintuan 9, Salalila 8, Santos 6, Sagun 6, Flores 3, Ellama 3, Edralin 2, Venus 2, Muna 1.

Ol'Aces 44 – Magofnia 11, Gilles 11, Moses 8, Cristobel 2, Olopai 2, Pialur 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-23, 28-31, 47-37, 68-44.

JERICHO

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Cruz suited up for two years with the Soaring Falcons in the UAAP where he even played alongside Guam's Will Stinett for one season.

Now Cruz is already in the PBA and is set to debut as one of Rain or Shine's promising rookies in the All Filipino Conference, set to open on Oct. 19.

Cruz, who represented the CNMI and the Philippine national teams in various international tournaments, had a respectable debut in Rain or Shine's preseason PBA game last week at Angeles University Foundation Gymnasium in Pampanga. He finished with 9 points, 4 assists, 4 rebounds, and 1 steal in 20 minutes of action.

The Elasto Painters, however, lost to San Miguel after Beermen forward Marcio Lassiter drained the game-winning basket with 7.1 seconds left. Rain or Shine had the chance to snatch the victory but Jonathan Uyloan's shot failed to hit its mark.

Despite the loss, Cruz said he treated the game just like any other and it was a learning experience for him and the entire Elasto Painters as they prepare for the upcoming PBA season.

"I'm so happy to play my first preseason game in the PBA and coach [Yeng Guiao] even let me finish the game. I also played great defense," said Cruz in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*. "It's all good. We lost by one point but coach Yeng is happy since we fought hard despite being undermanned."

Rain or Shine played minus Jeff Chan and Gabe Norwood, who were given the chance to rest after Gilas Pilipinas' stint in the 2014 International Basketball Federation World Cup in Spain, and Ryan Arana and Jireh Ibanez, who were nursing various injuries.

James unveils new shoe before restart with Cavs

BEAVERTON, Ore. (AP)—LeBron James had some business to take care before rejoining the Cleveland Cavaliers for training camp.

He was at Nike's corporate headquarters Tuesday for the unveiling of his new shoe, the LeBron 12. It is his first new shoe with Nike since he returned this summer to the Cavs.

"I would like this shoe," he joked. "But I love it because it has my name and logo on it."

The rollout comes less than two weeks before the four-time league MVP reports to training camp. The Cavs open the season on Oct. 30 at home against the New York Knicks.

The shoe, his 12th since signing with Nike as a rookie out of high school in 2003, features multicolored hexagonal cushions on the soles. It retails for $200, and versions of it will start hitting stores next month.

The NBA superstar, who started his career in Cleveland and led the Miami to two NBA titles, re-signed as a free agent with the Cavaliers in July. His new $41 million contract includes an option after one year, but he said last month that he planned to finish his career with the Cavs.

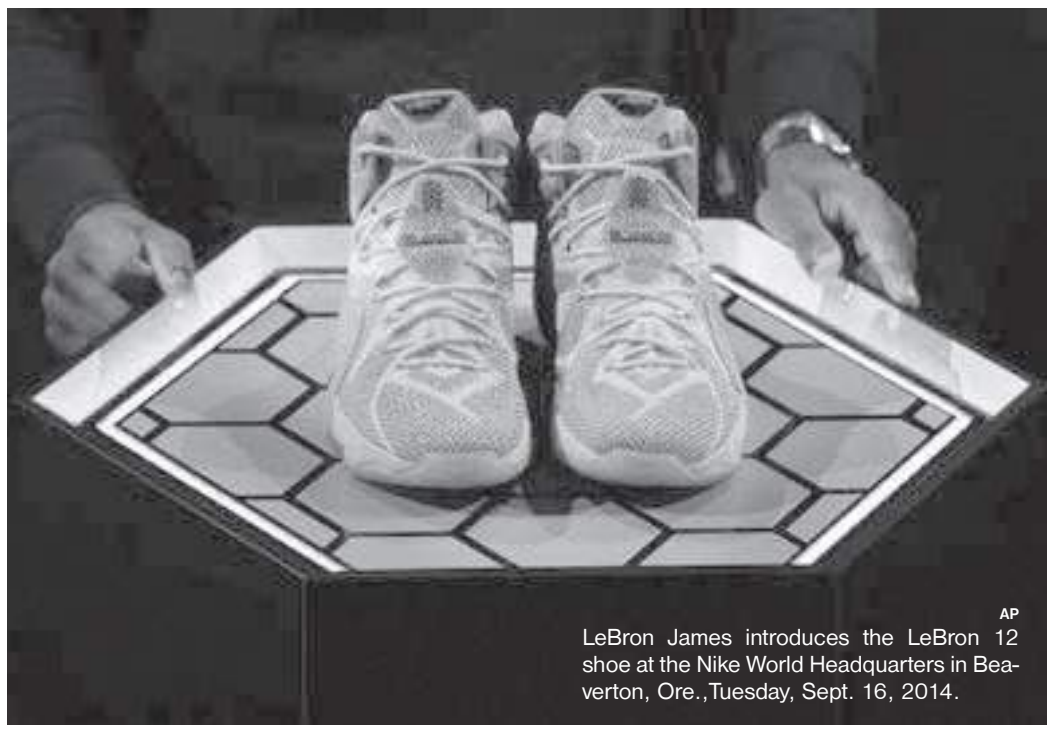
He'll join Kevin Love, who was traded from the Minnesota Timberwolves to the Cavs in late August, and Kyrie Irving, last year's All-Star Game MVP who signed a maximum contract extension on the first day of free agency. Irving was also the tournament MVP at the recent Basketball World Cup, which the U.S. national team won.

James and Love played together on the U.S. Olympic team that won the gold medal in London, but he was excited about joining Irving: "I think he can be the best point guard in our league."

The moves were part of a dramatic summer for the Cavs, who won just 33 games last season and haven't been to the playoffs since James left in 2010. Love's arrival after a three-team trade that instantly turned Cleveland into an NBA championship favorite.

Cleveland also signed free agents Shawn Marion, Mike Miller and James Jones, veteran players with NBA titles on their resumes.

"I'm looking forward to being back in downtown Cleveland—where I belong," he said.



AP
LeBron James introduces the LeBron 12 shoe at the Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Ore.,Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014.

FedEx Cup winner Horschel's wife gives birth

JACKSONVILLE BEACH, Fla. (AP)—FedEx Cup winner Billy Horschel's wife gave birth to their first child Tuesday night, two days after his Tour Championship victory in Atlanta.

Daughter Skylar Lillian Horschel weighed in at 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches.

"The last few weeks have been a whirlwind with so many incredible moments, but being able to share this moment with Brittany was the biggest win of my life," Horschel said. "I'm so happy I was here, surrounded by the people I care about, as we welcomed Skylar into the world. Now I can start getting her ready to win the 2032 NCAA Women's Golf Championship for the Florida Gators!"

Horschel won the season-ending Tour Championship on Sunday at East Lake to take the FedEx Cup title and $10 million bonus. He won the BMW Championship the previous week in Colorado.

KIM

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(311, 204) for a 13-shot win over runner-up Regis (+52, 628). CSU-Pueblo was five shots back to finish third with a 633 (317, 316).

CSU-Pueblo senior Julie Sanchez, Kim's teammate, bounced back from a 10-over 82 with an even-par 72 to end up tied for fifth at 154 with MSU Denver's Valerie Cruz.

ThunderWolf rookie Samantha Geisick joined three others—Rachel Rodriguez (Regis), Cassidy Volmer (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology), and Jamie Zook (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs) with a 23-over-par 167.

Megan McCutcheon, tied for 45th with two others at 28-over 172, and Natasha Navarro is at 51st with a two-day total of 178 to round up CSU-Pueblo's scoring.

The RMAC golf season continues next week at the Western New Mexico Fall Intercollegiate tournament at Estrella Mountain Ranch in Goodyear, Ariz.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Baltimore	91	60	.603	—
Toronto	77	73	.513	13½
New York	76	74	.507	14½
Tampa Bay	74	78	.487	17½
Boston	66	85	.437	25

Central Division

Detroit	84	67	.556	—
Kansas City	82	68	.547	1½
Cleveland	77	73	.513	6½
Chicago	69	82	.457	15
Minnesota	64	87	.424	20

West Division

z-Los Angeles	94	57	.623	—
Oakland	83	67	.553	10½
Seattle	81	69	.540	12½
Houston	67	84	.444	27
Texas	58	92	.387	35½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	87	63	.580	—
Atlanta	75	76	.497	12½
Miami	73	77	.487	14
New York	73	79	.480	15
Philadelphia	69	82	.457	18½

Central Division

St. Louis	83	68	.550	—
Pittsburgh	80	70	.533	2½
Milwaukee	79	72	.523	4
Cincinnati	71	81	.467	12½
Chicago	67	84	.444	16

West Division

Los Angeles	86	65	.570	—
San Francisco	83	68	.550	3
San Diego	70	80	.467	15½
Arizona	62	89	.411	24
Colorado	60	91	.397	26

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

M-League welcomes new team, opens fall season Sunday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A new team will be seeing action in the 2014 M-League as the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-sanctioned competition kicks off its fall season this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Saipan World Resort is the newest addition to the M-League family and will be playing in Division 2. With World Resort's entry, the M-League now has 13 teams with seven of them entered in Division 2 and six in Division 1. World Resort is grouped with the CNMI Women's National Team, Matansa Football Club, Kanoa Football Club, Shirley's Football Club, Sun Palace, and the Thundercats. Division 1 has Wild Bill's Paire Football Club, MP United Football Club, Korean Football Association on Saipan, Tan Holdings Football Club, and Inter Godfather's.

Twelve of the 13 teams will have their debut in the opening week of the M-League with Paire FC and Inter Godfather's playing in the first game of the season this Sunday at 12pm. In the second match at 2pm, KFAS will take on MP United, while in the third tiff at 4pm, Wild Bill's will face Tan Holdings FC. The last two matches in Week 1 will feature Division 2 teams, as the CNMI Women's National Team squares off with Matansa FC at 6pm and Kanoa FC collides against the Thundercats at 2pm. The remaining Division 2 game in the opening week is set for Sept. 21 with World Resort having its baptism of fire versus Shirley's FC at 6:30pm.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Wild Bill's defender hits the foot of an Inter Godfather's player as they battle for possession during last year's M-League game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Sun Palace drew a bye in the opening week and will have its debut match on Sept. 28 against World Resort in the last game of the weekend at 8pm. Other matches in Week 2 of the fall season are as follows: Tan Holdings vs KFAS at 2pm; MP United vs Inter Godfather's at 4pm; Matansa vs Kanoa FC at 6pm; and CNMI Women's National Team vs Shirley's FC (Oct. 1) at 6:30pm.

Each division will have a double-robin robin format in the regular season and the fall season will culminate with the Elimination Cup and Plate Tournament that will start in December. The Top 2 teams in Division 1 and top finisher in Division 2 will get byes in the Cup. Other rules in the two special tournaments will be announced later.

Meanwhile, the league will revert to its old format of having separate records for the seasons. Last year, the league combined the records of teams in the fall and spring competitions to determine the division champions. Wild Bill's ruled Division 1 last season with its 17-4-0 win-draw-loss slate, beating deposed champion Tan Holdings FC, which finished the fall and spring season with a 14-2-5 card. Inter Godfather's came in at third with its 13-2-6 record, followed by KFAS and Paire, which tallied 11-5-5 and 8-3-10 marks, respectively. MP United registered a 7-1-13 record to earn the final spot in Division 1, while Kanoa FC finished last with its 4-1-16 card and was relegated to Division 2.

The Thundercats topped Division 2 after logging a 13-4-4 record, while Shirley's FC was the runner-up with its 13-1-7 mark. Sun Palace placed third with its 10-3-8 slate, followed by the CNMI Women's National Team and Matansa, which posted 2-0-19 and 0-0-21 cards, respectively.

10 teams eyeing participation in inter-govt caging

Ten squads have expressed interest in competing in the 2014 BANMI Inter-Government Basketball League that will start later this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymasium.

Former champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs leads the list. DCCA, which defeated NTT Docomo, 80-70, in the 2009 finals, will be joined by two teams from the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Judiciary, Customs, DPS Fire, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Northern Marianas Sports Association.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DCCA's Romeo Iginoef, center, drives against NTT Docomo's Wowie Abuel, left, and Jun Estolas in this file photo taken during their title game in the 2009-2010 season of the inter-government/business caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League organizer Abner Venus said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* that there are a few more government agencies that are interested in joining the competition and BANMI will have to wait for confirmation next week.

Venus added that participating teams agreed in their previous meeting to kick off the league on Sept. 29. With the opening date set, Venus reminded squads that the $500 entrance fee is due a week before the kick-off date. The entrance fee excludes the $30 gym usage fees charge per team.

The league is exclusive for local and federal government employees and games will be played three times a week. The first game every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday is scheduled for 6:30pm, while the second one is slated at 8pm.

Meanwhile, BANMI is still accepting registration for the inter-commercial league. So far, seven teams have signified their intention to join the league that is open to all businesses in the CNMI.

Entry fee is $500, excluding uniform and gym usage fees and matches will be played every Tuesday and Thursday only. Two games are scheduled per playing day and only employees of the company they are representing are allowed to play.

For more information about the inter-government and commercial leagues, contact Venus at 888-3215 or send email to abnervenus1@gmail.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Team Akkari shoots for second softball crown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Team Akarri hopes to keep the Sta. Remedios slow-pitch softball tournament title when it vies anew for the second edition of the fundraising event to be held over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The tournament is a fund-raising event for next month's Sta. Remedios Fiesta in Tanapag.

Akarri, which topped the three-day event two weeks ago, is tipped to again rule the tournament after perennial title contender Natibu begged off to join.

Fourteen teams will try to foil Akarri's title bid.

The first game will be played at 6:30pm on Friday night and the matches will continue on Sunday where the Top 2 teams after the elimination round will vie for the tournament crown.

The Ray Saralu-powered Akarri ended Natibu's undefeated run in the finals to rule the Sept. 5 to 6 tournament, which attracted nine other squads.

Akarri lost to Natibu in the elimination round and had to beat Team Vinnie in the playoffs to book a finals spot. They got back on their tormentors in the finals, 15-9.

Akarri trailed for most part of the match but behind Saralu's consistent hitting slowly got back in the game they making their move in the top of the fifth to take the lead, 9-8.

A Saralu sacrifice fly RBI highlighted Akarri's comeback.

After holding Natibu to a single run in the bottom of the fifth, Saralu again stepped up to the plate and with the bases loaded with one out, sent Jerome Delos Santos' third pitch sailing past the left field fence to enjoy a 13-8 lead.

Akarri, which also scored a 15-9 decision over Team Vinnie behind Saralu's two homeruns in the semis, did not let the opportunity slip away and played solidly in the last two innings to complete the win.

Natibu swept its way to the finals to enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage, but both teams and the organizers decided not to play the second game due to the heavy downpour that flooded the field.

Warner, Seau among 113 Hall nominees
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Sports

M-League welcomes new team, opens fall season Sunday
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DYS, Kagman Sparks win debuts

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman Sparks' Jason Lampkin gets away for a baseline drive during the third quarter of their game against the G-Rollers in the U21 division of the BANMI youth caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Division of Youth and Services and Kagman Sparks recorded contrasting wins to open their respective bids in the 2014 BANMI Youth League on a positive note.

Kagman had their debut game in the U21 division last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and eked out a 57-54 victory over the Garapan Rollers, while DYS whipped the Ol'Aces, 68-44, in the U18 pairing last Tuesday.

DYS walked away with a big winning margin despite falling behind by double digits early in the game. The Ol'Aces took a 23-12 advantage after the first canto, but collapsed in the last three, as they were held to single digits in scoring in each of the remaining three quarters.

Dennis Moses and Dizon Magofna, who combined for 16 of their total points in the first frame, were scoreless in the second quarter where the Ol'Aces were limited on 8 points. DYS, on the other hand, doubled up the Ol'Aces with Tristan Montes leading the recovery, tallying 7. With DYS getting its form and the Ol'Aces slowing down, the former moved within 3 at the break, 28-31.

DYS then completed the turnaround in the second half, as the Ol'Aces continued to struggle offensively in the third and fourth quarters. The Ol'Aces scored only 6 markers in the third and had 7 in the fourth compared to the 19 and 21 of DYS.

Aaron Pamintuan knocked in 7 of his 9 points in the third period to help DYS steal the driver's seat, 47-37. Four other DYS players contributed at least

See DYS on Page 26

Kim sets new RMAC record for second win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Leina Kim continues to flash the same old form that earned her numerous titles on Saipan as she set a new tournament record in the second week of the 2014 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season.

Kim finished with a 4-under par 140 to break her own 142 record to rule the Colorado Christian Invitational on Tuesday at the Raccoon Creek Golf Course in Littleton, Colo. She posted that 142 in last year's season-opening RMAC #1 Tournament at the Desert Hawk Golf Course in Pueblo West, Colo.

The 22-year-old Kim opened with a 5-under 67 to match her own single-round course record.

And despite shooting 1-over 73 on the final day for that 140, the 22-year-old was still the best golfer to win her second consecutive title and in the process helped the Lady Thunder-Wolves to a third place finish behind champion Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver and Regis University, respectively.

The two-time RMAC Preseason Golfer of the Year is coming off a victory in last week's Samuel Proal Insurance Lady Wolf Pack Invitational after firing a 2-over-par 144 for a 9-stroke win over Regis University's Nicole Hulbert (153, 78-75).

MSU Denver topped the team event with a 39-over 615

See KIM on Page 26

CSU-PUEBLO WEBSITE
Leina Kim breaks her own record to clinch her second straight title in the 2014 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season.

Jericho in impressive debut in preseason

BURN SPORTS
Jericho Cruz had a respectable debut in Rain or Shine's loss to San Miguel in a Philippine Basketball Association out-of-town preseason game in Pampanga province.

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Jericho Cruz showed no rookie jitters in his first game with Rain or Shine when the Elasto Painters played against the San Miguel Beermen in a preseason tune-up match in the Philippine Basketball Association.

It was a bit of an unusual game for Cruz, who was picked ninth overall in last month's PBA rookie draft, as he played against his former coach, Leo Austria, who will be San Miguel's new bench tactician this season.

Austria, who recruited Cruz from the Rizal Technological University Blue Thunder, coached the shifty guard for almost three years with Adamson University in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

The UAAP is the Philippines' premier collegiate league, which is considered to be a counterpart of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in the United States.

See JERICHO on Page 26